

Win £5,000 of Lottery tickets

1,000 each for five runners-up
Details, PAGE 28

Bargain winter breaks

Take a three-day family trip to France for only £39
Special offer, P27

WIN

A £2,000 river cruise through Europe
Details, PAGE 21

SALES GUIDE

Where the bargains are
PAGES 28, 29

Men and women of the year

The best and worst of 1995
PAGES 12, 13

Carey tells of pain of royal break-up

Family values are message for Christmas

BY ALAN HAMILTON, STEPHEN FARRELL AND RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Archbishop of Canterbury spoke of the "pain" suffered by the Prince and Princess of Wales in his Christmas sermon yesterday as the Queen led a show of family solidarity at Sandringham.

In his address to the congregation at Canterbury Cathedral, Dr George Carey said: "Families have been very much in the news in recent weeks. Over the last few days the Prince and Princess of Wales, together with the children, have been at the forefront of our prayers as we have sensed aches and pains they carry."

The story of the nativity was the story of "a nuclear family if ever there was one, a holy family," Dr Carey said. "The values nourished in good families are not for hoarding in private foxholes but are there to be shared with the wider society. If we fail as a society to show all people that we care about them and that we are committed to them, we are failing to obey God's commandment to love our neighbours as ourselves."

He supported the Lord Chancellor's proposals to reform the divorce laws, saying: "I believe it is necessary to turn our backs on the quickie attitude to divorce." The emphasis should be on mediation so couples could reflect on what they were doing "but also for the sake of the children."

He also said that those who work too hard will pay a price in terms of relationships and family life. "It is easy to see why, for the sake of their families and to keep their jobs, people are working longer hours — but we should be a price to pay in terms of relationships and family life."

The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, also reflected on the theme and issued a warning that when family life based on

a stable marriage is not the norm, then society disintegrates.

"No institution is more important than the family, no relationship more precious than that between husband and wife. The civilisation of love is built upon these two — marriage and the family," he said in his sermon at Westminster Cathedral.

The Royal Family made the traditional Christmas Day ap-

She believes, and makes us believe, that duty must overcome selfishness. Send her victorious

Libby Purves on the Queen
Page 14

pearance at morning service at Sandringham yesterday with the Princess of Wales a notable exception. She was last seen leaving Kensington Palace on Christmas Eve but had been expected to spend the day alone at the palace.

After a difficult six weeks which began with the Princess's *Panorama* interview, the Royal Family looked happy and relaxed at Sandringham. It was the first time since the couple's separation in 1992 that the Princess had not made even a token appearance at Sandringham.

The Princess has not yet indicated whether she will consent to divorce, and no moves are likely until her lawyers return from their Christmas holidays.

All eyes were on Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, making her first public appearance since leaving hospital with a replacement hip. She looked in good health and spirits despite her 95 years, smiling to the crowd although

still walking with the occasional aid of two sticks. Those who had hoped that Prince Edward would be accompanied by Sophie Rhys-Jones, around whom there are continuing rumours of engagement, were disappointed. Miss Rhys-Jones is expected to visit Sandringham at some stage during the holiday.

In her own seasonal address, the Queen concentrated on what would have been an outstanding year for her, had it not been for the domestic troubles which continue to beset her. She avoided mention of family upsets in her Christmas broadcast, recorded last Thursday.

Instead she praised the peace makers of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and referred to the two highlights of her year which, had it not been for the continuing thorn of the Princess, would have been more marvellous than horribles.

In her speech she referred to the summer of celebrations commemorating the 50th anniversary of VE and VJ Day, which culminated in August in a theatrical Buckingham Palace balcony appearance by the Queen, the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. Their re-enactment of those moments of victory in 1945 drew a crowd of at least a quarter of a million showing warm appreciation for a monarch doing her job as figurehead.

She recalled her triumphant tour of South Africa, one of the most successful state visits of her reign, in which her pleasure at welcoming the country back into the Commonwealth after the pariah years of apartheid was heightened by an enormous personal admiration for President Mandela.

One hint at displeasure with newspaper coverage of her family's troubles was a drastic cut in the number of reporters and photographers granted access at Sandringham.

Queen's message, page 2



The Queen, Princess Margaret, Prince Andrew and the Queen Mother after the traditional Christmas service in Sandringham yesterday

I'm no saint, says nun praised by Queen

FROM RAY KENNEDY
IN JOHANNESBURG

SISTER Ethel Normoyle, the Irish nun who was compared to Mother Teresa by the Queen in her Christmas Day broadcast for her work in South Africa's squalid shanty towns, said yesterday: "I'm

amazed and grateful and she is very kind. But I'm no saint."

During her state visit to South Africa in March, the Queen visited the clinic where 50-year-old Sister Ethel, a member of the Little Company of Mary and a trained nurse, worked among the flimsy corrugated iron and

cardboard shacks that are the homes of up to 12,000 people on the outskirts of New Brighton township outside Port Elizabeth.

It is one of the roughest, toughest areas of South Africa and during the late 1980s and early 1990s among the most violent. The Queen, in her Christmas message, described Sister Ethel's work as a glowing example of service to the less fortunate.

Sister Ethel, from Lisycasey, Co Clare, is the only nun in the shanty town and lives alone close to it. She said yesterday that she has a team of about 20 lay helpers who assist her in gathering and distributing clothes, primer stoves and other basic essentials.

She has been in South Africa for seven years. "There used to be a lot of sisters coming out from Eire, but it's a vocation and a calling that doesn't appeal very much to younger people now," she

said. When she began her work her clinic was in the open air under a tree.

The first improvement was a corrugated iron and timber shack built for her by the people of the shanty town. That has since been replaced by a permanent structure, which the Queen visited, funded by a foundation established by local business people and residents.

"The area is ravaged by tuberculosis and malnutrition," she said. "And about 80 per cent of the men are unemployed." In addition to health care she and her helpers run pre-school classes for

the children of working mothers and for homeless street children, as well as sewing and handicraft instruction for adults. It is a seven day a week job and Sister Ethel usually gets home after dark.

She said yesterday: "We are just trying to reach out to people who are broken and repressed and I'm just trying to do my bit to bring the compassion of Christ to people."

Both the Queen and herself, she added, "have shared in the theme of the poverty of people."

Leading article, page 15



Sister Ethel with The Queen earlier this year

Forte to sell restaurants

Forte is set to sell its restaurant operations, which include the Little Chef, Happy Eater, Welcome Break motorway stations, and its 112 Travelodge hotels to Whitbread in an attempt to defeat Granada's £3.3 billion takeover bid. The sale is subject to shareholder approval. Page 36

Missing girl plea

Police searching for a "naive and trusting" French girl missing for a week after taking a lift in a lorry, appealed for the help of lorry drivers who had used an M4 service station. Page 3

Buying The Times overseas:
Austria Sch 40s Belgium 8 frs 20c
Canada \$3.25 Denmark 12kr 18.00
Cyprus C£1.20 Denmark 12kr 18.00
Finland Fmk 17.00 France F 14.00
Germany DM 4.50 Gibraltar 90p
Greece Dr 450 Netherlands Fl 4.50
Ireland Republic 45p Italy L 4.50
Luxembourg 116b Madrid Esc 350
Malta Lsc Morocco Dir 27.00 Norway Kr 20.00 Portugal Con Esc 350 Spain Ptas 225 Sweden Skr 18.00 Switzerland Sfr 4.00 Tunisia Din 2.00 USA \$3.50



TV & RADIO 34, 35
WEATHER 18
CROSSWORDS 18, 36

Unwell Pope unable to complete greeting

FROM A CORRESPONDENT
IN ROME

POPE John Paul II, 75, was yesterday unable to complete his traditional Christmas Day greeting to the world because of ill health.

The Pontiff, suffering from influenza, turned away from his third-floor Vatican study window, apologising for being unable to carry on after delivering his *Urbi et Orbi* message on a rainy, mild morning. "Excuse me, I must interrupt," said the Pope ten minutes into his speech to a crowd in St Peter's Square. He had been about to wish holiday greetings in 55 languages, a Christmas and Easter highlight for millions.

As the crowd fell silent in disbelief, the international television link broadcasting the ceremony to 67 nations and an audience estimated at nearly two billion, was cut.

Twenty minutes after he left the window, the Pope returned for a moment to assure those below that he was in no serious danger. "Again I wish you Merry Christmas," he said. "I am sorry I had to leave, but anyone — even the Pope — can fall ill. Thank you



The Pope looked tired during midnight Mass

for your patience." Vatican officials said the Pope had awoken with a fever of 37.5C yesterday, due possibly to the weather and over-exertion during a Christmas Eve midnight Mass.

It was indicated his departure from the window was probably caused by nausea.

The Pope is expected to travel today to Castel Gandolfo for several days of rest. His speech was transmitted on the Internet as the Vatican went online yesterday.

Arctic cold expected to spread to whole of the country

BY PETER FOSTER AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

TEMPERATURES are expected to plunge today after Arctic blizzards brought a white Christmas to much of Scotland, Wales and northern England.

The worst-hit areas were in northern Scotland, where some homes were without electricity for up to 36 hours after heavy snow brought down overhead power cables. Snowdrifts up to 10ft deep cut off many roads.

The London Weather Centre forecast a succession of extremely cold nights with Arctic air covering the whole country. Even in the south-east of England, frosts of -3C (26.6F) were predicted last night, leaving roads hazardous. Tonight the temperature is expected to drop to -5C (23F) in the region.

Bookmakers face a big payout to those who laid bets on a white Christmas. Many of Britain's main cities recorded snow: William Hill has to pay out for snowfall in Newcastle upon Tyne (evens), Edinburgh (evens), Norwich (2/1), Leeds (2/1) and Manchester (2/1). Aberdeen

and Belfast also had snow. Frost will cause problems for motorists but today will be mainly dry with sunny spells. East Anglia and northeast England could receive snow.

In Scotland, drivers were advised by the Automobile Association to travel only if necessary. In Wales, motorists were warned to take care on icy roads.

As snow and wind gradually fade, the worst peril is likely to be freezing night time temperatures.

Worst hit by the wintry weather, caused by air from the Arctic, was Shetland. On Christmas Eve, winds gusted up to 100mph as more than 12 inches of snow fell on the islands. All roads outside Lerwick, the main town, were blocked by drifts, some as deep as 30ft.

Snow-plough drivers were ordered by Shetland Islands Council to stay at home for their own safety, leaving 500 miles of roads still blocked.

Coastguards have been on duty for three days because they cannot get home and their replacements have been

unable to get through. Four television engineers in a small boat braved the crossing to the tiny island of Bressay to try to start generators for Shetland's main TV and radio transmitters, which have been off since Christmas Eve.

Jonathan Wills, who lives with his wife and family on Bressay, said: "A policeman said to me yesterday that people are having conversations again because they can't watch the box. We are going to think of evacuation soon because we are getting low on candles and gas for the back-up heater."

Creighton Irvine, a hill farmer living in Bixter, west Shetland, said that he and his family were perfectly happy sitting round a peat fire and charring by candlelight. He said: "The weather's rough but the fire's warm and the freezer is well charged up with grub to keep us going."

Shetland was in danger of being cut off as ferries were cancelled and Sumburgh airport was closed.

Forecast, page 18

Buy something special and we'll go halves with you.

The Gieves & Hawkes Sale starts tomorrow.

EXAMPLES OF REDUCTIONS	PRICE WAS	PRICE NOW
Business suit Pure wool, navy pinstripe	£495	£245
Cashmere sweater 3 & 4-ply marl cashmere, crewneck style & cable design, in a variety of colours	£450	£195
Tweed jacket From our contemporary collection, charcoal grey, 3-button tweed jackets in two designs	£350	£150

WITH UP TO 50% REDUCTIONS ON BUSINESSWEAR, CASUALWEAR, ACCESSORIES AND A WIDE RANGE OF GIEVES & HAWKES AND CHURCH'S SHOES.

Listed offers subject to availability



GIEVES & HAWKES
No. 1 Savile Row, London

London: No. 1 Savile Row, 18 Linc. Street, Selfridges, Oxford Street, W1.
Bath: Chiffenham, Chatter, Port Street, Winchester.

THIS WEEK IN
THE TIMES

WEDNESDAY

ESSENTIAL
FASHION

Smart sales guide:
what to buy, by the
fashion experts
PLUS:
Anniversaries of
the year, and
Interactive
Team Football

THURSDAY

FILMS
OF THE
YEAR

Geoff Brown
selects the
memorable movies
of 1995
PLUS: Books, Health
and Travel News

FRIDAY

POP

Caitlin Moran on
modern music
and musicians
PLUS:
The Valerie Grove
interview and the
Bernard Levin
column

SATURDAY

BLOOMSBURY
BOOKS OFFER

Buy one Bloomsbury Classic,
get one free **PLUS:** Magazine:
Jonathan Meades's Restaurants
of the Year Weekend: the
champagne jumbo crossword
Car 95: motoring news 1015
for young Times readers Vision:
the 7-day TV and radio guide

EVERY DAY THIS WEEK: YOUR CHANCE
TO WIN 5,000 LOTTERY TICKETS

Howard under fire

Sacked jails
chief attacks
Tory backing
for hard line

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLITICIANS are overly concerned with excessively tough prison regimes, the sacked head of the Prison Service said yesterday. Derek Lewis's outspoken attack on government policy followed the denunciation of the Home Secretary 24 hours earlier by the former governor of Parkhurst.

Mr Lewis said that prisons should be austere and there should be no hint of luxury. But they were not serving the public well if they simply turned out "embittered, alienated prisoners who are going to go straight back to a life of crime". There was a very important rehabilitative task to be done as well.

Britain could be going down the same road as America in incarcerating too many people. There are now over 1.5 million people in prison in the United States, five times as many as there are in this country relative to the size of the general population. "It

would be very easy to start down that slippery slope from which it would be very difficult to return," Mr Lewis said on BBC Radio 5 Live.

He said the Prison Service needed to be given the freedom to get on with the job it was supposed to do. "That is something that did not happen. There was too much political involvement in the day-to-day running of the service."

John Marriott, the former governor of Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight, accused Michael Howard of making prison policy on the hoof and in response to newspaper headlines, and of creating a scapegoat mentality throughout the penal system.

In his first comments since being dismissed after the escape of three dangerous prisoners from his jail in January, Mr Marriott said Mr Howard was the worst Home Secretary in 25 years. He was a "small-minded individual" who mistook public rhetoric and posturing for statesmanship.

"My own view is that he makes policy on the hoof when he sees a tabloid headline about something and policy is dictated as a consequence of that," Mr Marriott said. "I think he mistakes public posturing, public rhetoric with strong leadership, and I think he is quite a small-minded man in many ways."

Magistrates
are urged
to tag more
offenders

BY RICHARD FORD

MAGISTRATES and probation officers are being urged to take a positive attitude towards electronic tagging of offenders as the Government attempts to overcome a very poor response to the £1.3 million trials.

The Government is expected to announce next month that the nine-month experiment is to be extended for a further year because only 17 tagging orders have been imposed in 25 weeks.

Baroness Blatch, a junior Home Office Minister, said after visiting Manchester, one of three trial areas, that magistrates knew there were people for whom a curfew was a very effective sentence. "More use could be made of it if the probation service and magistrates would be more imaginative," she added.

One of the eight people tagged in Manchester was sentenced to four months in prison after cutting off the electronic device and throwing it into a pond. He is alleged to have claimed that it made him feel "like a dog".

An offender in Reading was taken back to court for breaching his tagging order after he took it off when he was assaulted by some youths. The 22-year-old had been mistaken for a sex offender who had also been tagged. He has since been convicted of driving while disqualified and jailed for three months.

In an attempt to overcome the very low use of tagging to enforce curfew orders, magistrates have been urged to "bang the drum" for electronic monitoring. In November the Magistrates' Association seminar accused probation officers of sabotaging the nine-month scheme. One offender was quoted as saying: "I thought it was going to be awful because my probation officer told me it would be."

Harry Fletcher, assistant general secretary of the National Association of Probation Officers, denied that the service was involved in sabotaging tagging.

He said: "The tagging pilot staggers on even though it has problems and is unpopular with the courts. If ministers have any evidence that probation officers are undermining this project then they should make that available for independent inspection."

"Magistrates can always make electronic curfew orders which are not in line with report recommendations."

The Government is having difficulty in finding a replacement for Mr Lewis, who was sacked as Director-General of the Prison Service in October. A number of candidates have been approached, including Anthony Meyer, chief executive of the Housing Corporation. A spokeswoman for the corporation said he had been formally sounded out about the job but was not interested in taking it.

Mr Marriott left the Prison Service at the end of November to become general manager in charge of mental health with the Isle of Wight Community Healthcare NHS Health Trust. He said Home Office ministers had been aware of security shortcomings at Parkhurst at the time of the escape. He had made repeated requests for alarms to be fitted to the perimeter fence. There had been a degree of "skulduggery" in the decision to relieve him of his job.

However, a report by Sir John Learmont was highly critical of management as well as security lapses at Parkhurst and demanded that security be given a much greater emphasis throughout the 133 jails in England and Wales.

Ann Widdowcombe, the Prison Service Minister, said: "The Learmont report found that if routine procedures had been carried out such as counting prisoners in and out, keeping control of tools, making sure officers were familiar with the security manual, the escape might not have happened."

Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, said Mr Marriott's comments had lifted the veil on a crisis of morale in the Prison Service. "With prison numbers rising whilst finance is being cut, the last thing the service needs is leadership by scapegoat."



Howard: accused of being small minded



The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, at home yesterday with his grandchildren, David, foreground, aged five, and, from left, Oliver, two, Edward, nine months, Jonathan, one, and Simon, eight

Rwanda relief workers spend
Christmas reuniting families

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

FRANK KENNEDY celebrated his achievement of feeding 35,000 Rwandan refugees for a week with a Christmas dinner of white beans and bottled beer.

Across the border in Zaire another relief worker, Rob MacGillivray, was reflecting on a month in which he had helped to reunite 400 children with their parents after perhaps 18 months' separation. The 36-year-old Save the Children worker toasted the work of international relief agencies with a glass of whisky, saved for the purpose. He led a chorus of Christmas carols on the banjo.

Both men are part of a small army of British aid agency workers helping to transform the camps of Rwandan refugees from disaster zones into a manageable humanitarian problem.

Two million Hutus fled the genocide in Rwanda to neighbouring Burundi, Tanzania and Zaire. The threat of forced repatriation still hangs over the families trying to scratch a living in camps like that at Bukavu, on the Zaire-Rwanda border.

The mass deaths from malnutrition and disease have ended the day-to-day work of making the camps

habitable is a complex international relief operation. Mr Kennedy, 37, in his fourth year working for the Red Cross, is based at the Benaco and Lukole camps on the Tanzanian border. He co-ordinates the food supply for 320,000 people.

The working day starts at 5.30am when the warehouses are opened. Two hours later, 35,000 refugees are queuing at turnstiles. Every two weeks, each gets a supply of 5kg of maize, beans, vegetables and a corn and soya blend.

"This is enough to give a basic nutritional requirement," Mr Kennedy said. "We try to encourage camp managers to issue tools and seeds. We encourage the planting of small vegetables and small animal husbandry, so that a degree of normalcy can be achieved."

Yesterday some of the refugees, who are predominantly Christian, spontaneously began singing carols.

Mr Kennedy, who comes from Middlesbrough, misses home. "I think of my family every day," he says. "I was here at the beginning [of the crisis] last year, in the summer. I have been here now for six weeks and it is a completely different operation."

"The speed of the influx and the sheer scale took us all by surprise. There is a trickle

returning home but it is fewer than we would like."

"What the refugees are saying is they want information from inside Rwanda. They want very localised information, such as 'How is my village?' and 'How is my village?' Until they are reassured they will not go back."

Mr MacGillivray spent much of Christmas Day worrying about a colleague who was returning from the Save the Children base at Kigali in Rwanda. His first duty was a radio-check call. "I have got a Land Rover returning to Bukavu and the driver's progress has to be monitored constantly, particularly through sensitive border areas. When that was done, I could continue writing my report on the last

year for Save the Children."

An estimated 100,000 children were split from their families during the genocide and many have turned up at the camps looking for their parents. Often their parents were looking for them.

"This is where Save the Children comes in," Mr MacGillivray, a Glaswegian whose wife Liz is also a relief worker, said. "Using our logistics network, we can marry up pieces of information given by the child and by the family."

"The reconnection matches we can then proceed with the process of reunification — a very emotional occasion for all concerned — particularly so because many parents have now lost hope of ever seeing their children again."

"Christmas is a family occasion. Of course, I would like to be sharing it with my family but I do take great satisfaction in the knowledge that there are many children who are sharing Christmas with their families."

Mr Kennedy had not been able to hear the Queen's Christmas message, in which she paid tribute to people like him working for peace in the world's trouble spots, because his radio batteries had gone flat. "But it's a great thrill to know that the Queen is thinking of us."



Kennedy: organises food for 320,000 people

Queen praises unsung volunteers
for spreading message of peace

THE full text of the Queen's Christmas message:

In 1995 the nation and the Commonwealth have been celebrating the anniversary of VE and VJ Day. In quieter moments we also remembered those who paid the price for our freedom.

Commemorations and anniversaries are very important elements in our national life. Last summer we paid tribute, 50 years on, to all those who took part in the deadly events of the Second World War. In May we gave thanks for the end of the war in Europe, and then in August, for the first time since the end of the war in the Far East, we gave a real welcome home to the veterans of Burma and the Pacific.

It was difficult to know that day who felt the greater pride, those of us watching or those on parade. It was an unforgettable day for all of us.

The war demanded immense sacrifices and acts of selfless endurance and bravery but the final victory gave much of the world 50 years of relative peace. All generations since then have had good

reason to be grateful to those who gave their service and, in all too many cases, their health and their lives, so that the rest of us could enjoy the freedom to get on with our lives in peace.

The work for peace is never-ending. At long last the fighting between the factions in the former Yugoslavia seems to be coming to an end, with life beginning to return to some kind of normality. This Christmas, thousands of Commonwealth servicemen and women will be far from their families, already playing their part in the international force dedicated to keeping that peace.

Closer to home, there has been a peace in Northern Ireland for more than a year. It is heartily welcomed by all people of goodwill. These are the first fruits of that ceaseless work for peace. They could only have been achieved by the quiet and determined efforts of all sorts of different people, some of them famous, many of them unnoticed and unsung by the world at large, but all peacemakers nonetheless. It is when the fighting

ceases that the work of reconciliation and reconstruction can begin.

A short time ago, I invited a number of workers from volunteer organisations to Buckingham Palace. They came from all over the Commonwealth and they had worked in many countries, from Bosnia to Rwanda, from Chechnya to Cambodia. They go quietly about their business, in harrowing and dangerous circumstances, giving help to the suffering and the hungry.

Like the people who fought and won the last war, they make no claim to be anything out of the ordinary but their commitment is very far from ordinary. And their contribution is something of which all their compatriots can feel deeply proud.

It was during my visit to South Africa last March that I witnessed a glowing example of how the inspiration and energy of one person can benefit thousands of others.

Seven years ago, Sister Ethel came to a township outside Port Elizabeth where she began teaching young children

under the shade of a solitary tree. Through her hard work and tenacity she has now built a pre-school and a clinic. These provide for children and teenagers who have missed out on formal education.

Soup and bread are distributed to the heads of 500 families from the township each day and, through the use of a piece of waste ground by the local council, people are being taught to cultivate the land and grow their own vegetables. But I suspect that Sister Ethel's modesty and sense of humour prevent her from appreciating the full extent of her achievements.

The traditional Christmas message speaks of peace and goodwill among men. It is the volunteers and the Sister Ethels of this world who spread that message and it is for the rest of us to welcome it.

Christ said: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." Thanks to the peacemakers, many millions will enjoy a better Christmas this year. I hope your Christmas will be a happy one. God bless you all.

Cinema owner on
triple murder charge

A cinema owner will appear before magistrates tomorrow accused of murdering three men whose bodies were discovered over a wide area of North Wales. Peter Moore, 49, a single man from Kinnel Bay, Cwylwy, was charged with the third murder yesterday after the discovery of a badly decomposed body in the Clocenog Forest near Ruthin. An inquest was opened and adjourned on the man and police hope dental records and DNA evidence will help them to identify him.

Mr Moore had appeared before Colwyn Bay magistrates on Friday charged with killing Tony Davies, 40, a crematorium worker, and on Christmas Eve charged with the murder of Keith Randles, 49, of Chester. Mr Randles, a safety manager who had been stabbed, was found last month on a construction site beside the A5 on Anglesey.

Jackson tops the Pops



Michael Jackson, left, kept the No 1 spot in the Christmas singles chart yesterday, beating the novelty band Mike Flowers Pops. The single *Earth Song*, from Jackson's *HIStory* album, which hit the top last week, managed to hang on despite unexpectedly high sales for Flowers's tongue-in-cheek version of the Oasis hit *Wonderwall*. The Beatles were at No 8 with *Free as a Bird*.

Father and sons die

A police inspector and his two sons died when their car was involved in a collision with three lorries during a Christmas shopping trip. David Hogarth, 41, and his 12-year-old son Matthew died instantly in the crash in icy conditions in the Derbyshire Peak District on Saturday. His other son Andrew, 10, died in Manchester Children's Hospital. Andrew's mother Ruth donated his organs for transplant. The Hogarths have no other children.

Britons return to court

Two Britons are to appear in court in Bangkok on Thursday on drugs charges. Proceedings against Robert Lock and Sandra Gregory have already lasted almost three years. Their trial has been repeatedly adjourned because of the failure of a potentially key witness, an airline official, to attend court. Gregory, 29, from West Yorkshire, has admitted possessing heroin, but denied trafficking. Mr Lock, 30, from Cambridge, has denied any offence.

Vicar's job challenge

The Rev Kit Chalcraft, who lost his post because he wished to marry for a third time, is to appeal against a tribunal decision that he cannot claim unfair dismissal because he was self-employed. Mr Chalcraft, formerly priest-in-charge of the Hilborough group of parishes in Norfolk, wants to help other clergy who have suffered at the hands of the church, according to his third wife, Susanne. She said: "He just wants to air the lack of natural justice."

Police alert on gang warfare after pub killing

DETECTIVES fear an outbreak of gang warfare after a shooting in a packed pub on Christmas Eve. Francis Kelly, 28, died as he drank at Macey's bar in the Bigg Market area of Newcastle upon Tyne.

The gunman opened fire from almost point-blank range. Mr Kelly's drinking companion, David Armstrong, was shot in the arm as he rushed to his aid.

Dozens of drinkers dived for cover. Mr Kelly, a father of two, stumbled

into the street and collapsed. One witness, Andy Field, said: "I saw a young man stumble out of the pub clutching his chest. He got to the middle of the road when another young man pointed a gun and fired into his stomach."

The victims came from well-known families in the West End area of the city, where police are investigating other serious incidents.

Detective Chief Inspector Derek Storey said: "This was a barbaric act

with total disregard for the safety of the very large number of innocent members of the public who were congregating in the area enjoying the pre-Christmas festivities. Clearly we are concerned when a gun is used in a packed pub. It shows what type of people we are looking for."

Another witness, Bill Johnson, said: "It looked like a professional job to me. I was standing near by and the gunman looked as though he knew what he was doing." The shooting is

the latest in a series of incidents connected to the West End area in recent months.

In October, three men were "knee-capped" by a gunman in the Star Inn. A month earlier, William Thompson, a publican, lost both legs after being shot at his pub, The Grainger.

Police in Co Durham are appealing for help to trace the final movements of a man found dead on Christmas Eve. The body of Steven Gourly, 21, was discovered at 11.15pm

in Bonagate car park, Bishop Auckland, where he had been seen earlier with his girlfriend.

Police want to speak to a man seen talking to the girlfriend, but last night officers stressed that the death of Mr Gourly, of Shildon, Co Durham, was not being treated as suspicious. Inspector Graham Hall said: "However, we must cover all avenues and want to speak to anyone who may have seen Steven or talked to him on the night he died."

Concern growing for safety of 'naive and trusting' French hitch-hiker

Police appeal to lorry drivers in hunt for teenager

By TIM JONES

POLICE searching for a "naive and trusting" French girl missing for a week after taking a lift in a lorry appealed yesterday for the help of lorry drivers who had used an M4 service station at the time she was last seen.

Celine Figard, 19, was seen at a service station at Chieveley, near Newbury, Berkshire, climbing into the cab of a refrigeration lorry last Tuesday. It had a Thermo King 36-ton or 40-ton trailer unit, painted in grey and the driver, who had ginger-blond hair and a ginger moustache, was wearing grey overalls. Police believe they could have been matching livery colours.

Detective Superintendent Des Thomas, in charge of the inquiry, said yesterday: "We have had more than 200 calls from the public but so far there has been no positive sighting. We are getting progressively more concerned. Despite a great deal of publicity, the lorry driver who gave her a lift has not come forward and suspicions are now falling on him. If he reads this and is innocent I would ask him to call us immediately. Even if he has something to hide, I would ask him to get in touch because we are on his trail. We will find him." Police say that



A police video-fit of the suspected lorry driver

the driver has cropped, ginger hair, a "chin strap" beard, and is aged between 30 and 40.

Last night, the girl's father, Bernard Figard, 46, said: "I am desperately worried and so is my wife. She is a very sensible, responsible, level-headed girl who has never gone missing before." M Figard, a farmer, said his daughter, who speaks English fairly well, had been in England before and knew her way around. "She is just a normal teenager. She has made several trips like this before without any problems."

Mlle Figard had left her home near Chalons-sur-Marne, about 200 miles south-

cast of Paris, to spend Christmas with her cousin, Jean-Mark Figard, at Fordingbridge, Hampshire.

Mlle Figard, an accountancy student, had kept in touch with her parents but her trail went cold after she was seen boarding a lorry at the service station. She had left home on Tuesday at 7am and travelled with a lorry driver who is a family friend.

At Folkestone, she was given a lift by another French driver who was known to the first driver and he took her to the Chieveley station.

Mlle Figard had been trying to get a lift to Salisbury, Wiltshire. "We know that she tried to ring the hotel from Chieveley but dialled the wrong code and didn't get through," Mr Thomas said. "She was offered the chance to use a phone in the cab of a lorry and got aboard the white Mercedes tractor unit about 4.30pm."

Mlle Figard is described as slightly built, 5ft, with wavy, brown, shoulder-length hair, brown eyes and a clear complexion. She was wearing a green jacket with a black pattern, black jeans, ankle boots and, around her neck, a pendant bearing the initial C.

Mr Thomas appealed for any lorry drivers, who used the Chieveley service station between 4pm and 6pm on December 19, to contact the police. "They may not think they have information, but we need to eliminate them from the inquiry," he said.

The driver's workmates and family would know who he was and Mr Thomas urged them to contact police. "If she is still alive then the quicker we get to her the better. The main thrust of our inquiries is the preservation of Celine's life. We simply do not know what has happened to her."

"Of course we have very serious fears for her personal safety given the amount of time she has been missing. She completed 90 per cent of her journey and then disappeared."

Mr Thomas said that Mlle Figard is a level-headed and sensible young woman though, perhaps, "a bit naive and trusting".

Last night, her cousin said: "She is a lovely, lively girl and we are very close. I am worried sick. I beg anyone who knows anything about her to contact the police."

Posters showing a photograph of the girl and video-fit likeness of the suspected lorry driver will be put up tomorrow along the route she took.



Celine Figard, missing since December 19, was last seen at an M4 service station

Three orphaned after man kills himself and wife

By TIM JONES

THREE young children spent Christmas Day with relatives after their father battered their mother to death and committed suicide.

Police believe Leslie Brough, 35, described as a "jolly, family man", attacked his wife during an argument. He killed himself with a shotgun.

Their oldest child, Kim, 6, rushed in tears to a nearby house and said: "Please help me, my mummy and daddy are dead."

Andrea Brough, in her 30s, suffered head injuries in the attack at the family home in the village of Cleator, Cumbria, and died five hours later at the West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven.

Kim, her brother Marcus, aged 4, and four-month-old Joseph were in the terraced house, which had been decorated for Christmas, when the row erupted at lunchtime on Saturday.

The children spent Christmas being cared for by relatives as social workers and trained police officers began the delicate task of trying to find out from them exactly what happened.

Detective Inspector Paul Carter, of Whitehaven police, said: "This is an awful tragedy. When we got there a man was lying dead in the living room having shot himself and the woman was in the house suffering from very serious head injuries."

"The family had obviously

been getting ready for Christmas. I know there are pressures at this time of year so it might be that something bubbling under the surface came to a head, but we just don't know yet."

He said everyone in Cleator, a tiny, close knit community, had been devastated by the tragedy.

Detective Inspector Carter added: "Everyone knows each other and all the children all go to the same school. Everyone is affected by this terrible tragedy which is made worse coming so soon before Christmas."

Roy Hodgeson, landlord of the Three Tuns, said the family had lived in the village for about six years and all the children had been born there.

"Their father was a nice guy who would come in occasionally for a pint of shandy but basically he was a family man. He preferred staying at home to going out with the lads. He seemed to be a jolly bloke, always laughing and didn't seem to have a care in the world."

"The baby, Joseph, was christened about four weeks ago. I can't understand why he did it. It can't be money problems because they were selling their house so they could build a bungalow on his father's farm."

Mr Brough earned about £18,000 a year as a construction worker at the British Nuclear Fuels Sellafield plant.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS GIRL?

At 4.30 on the afternoon of Tuesday 19th December 19 year old French girl Celine Figard was given a lift from Chieveley Service area on the M4/A34 junction. She was going to Fordingbridge in Hampshire and has not been seen since.

The driver who gave her a lift was a French man with short dark hair and a chin strap beard. He was wearing a grey overcoat or pullover.

Police are anxious to trace the driver. He is white, 30-40 years of age, with short dark hair and a chin strap beard cutting over his forehead. He was wearing a grey overcoat or pullover.

01703 551175

Posters going up along the route taken by Mlle Figard

Soldier in Bosnia is found shot dead

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

A BRITISH soldier sent to Bosnia only two weeks ago as part of the Nato peace implementation force was found shot dead in his bed on Christmas Eve in Sarajevo in an apparent suicide.

Signalman Mark Maxwell, 22, of the 7th Royal Signals, suffered a single shot to the head at 8.30pm. "It appears no one else was involved," a spokesman for the Nato force, Colonel Mark Rayner, said at a press conference yesterday.

Soldiers, who were celebrating Christmas by preparing a traditional turkey lunch in the Zetra sports stadium where the regiment is based, were saddened by their colleague's death. "What a place to be at Christmas. We had a minute's silence for Maxwell at this morning's church service," Corporal Troy Burrows, a friend of the soldier, said.

Signalman Maxwell arrived in Sarajevo on December 10 as part of the 60,000-strong Nato force being deployed in Bosnia to implement the Dayton accord. He is the first fatality in the 13,000-strong British contingent. On Saturday, two British soldiers were injured when they drove over a mine.

Colleagues expressed shock at the death and said Signalman Maxwell had not appeared depressed. "He was always a happy lad. He made people smile," Major Julian Turner, the officer commanding the regiment, said.

Signalman Maxwell had been in the 7th Royal Signals since 1992 and had been in the Army for six years.

Weeks of surgery for boy savaged by rottweilers

By A STAFF REPORTER

DOCTORS will begin a series of operations this week to try to save an 11-year-old boy from partial paralysis after he was savaged by two rottweilers. He is unable to move one leg and it will be several weeks before surgeons know whether he will ever walk normally again.

He will also need extensive plastic surgery to rebuild his face, which was so mutilated that his mother could barely recognise him.

The dogs pounced on David Kearney on Saturday evening after he climbed a 6ft fence into the backyard of a house at Darwen, Lancashire, where three of the dogs were kept. His sister Amanda, 14, said that David had been caroling with friends and they had then played football. The ball was accidentally kicked into the yard, she said.

"He climbed over with some friends to get the football back," she said. "When they saw the dogs, his friends ran away but David bent down to

get the ball. As he did that, some money fell out of his pocket. He stayed to pick it up and one of the dogs came over. He tried to make friends with it, but it went for him."

The owner, Kevin Turner, asked police to have the two dogs destroyed after the attack. He said the first he knew anything was wrong was when a neighbour rang him on his mobile phone to say the dogs had bitten a child.

"Within ten minutes of getting the call, I got home and went straight through into the yard. There was a policeman shining a torch over the fence. I told him it was my house and he asked me to put the dogs away."

"I thought he was going to tell me that the dogs had bitten a boy and that he was in hospital having a few stitches. But as I turned to lock up the dogs, I saw the boy lying behind the yard door. The poor kid was not moving at all. I locked the dogs up and we heard the boy make a little groan. We covered him with blankets to keep him warm."

Last night the injured child was on a ventilator at Booth Hall Hospital, Manchester, where his condition was said to be "critical but stable".

His parents spent Christmas at his bedside. His mother, Margaret Kearney, said: "He was so badly marked I hardly recognised him."

Police are drawing up a report of the incident but are not expected to take any action against Mr Turner. He has two other rottweilers and has promised to build a second fence round his yard.



David Kearney: climbed fence into dogs' yard



Habitat sale starts Wednesday 27 December

Campaigners call for a clear-out

Chairman's exit at Yorkshire Water may start a flood

By PAUL WILKINSON AND LINDSAY COOK

PRESSURE is mounting for widespread changes in the boardroom of Yorkshire Water after a disclosure that the troubled company is seeking a new chairman.

Sir Gordon Jones, who led the firm through the transfer from public utility to private corporation six years ago, wants to go before his compulsory retirement date of February 1997, when he will be 70. Corporate head-hunters have been hired to find a successor.

Sir Gordon's pay this year is £163,000 including perks. At the time of privatisation it was £54,825. The company has been criticised for high levels of leaks at a time when profits and executive salaries have risen.

The chairman is the third member of the board in a year to decide he has had enough. The finance director, Malcolm Batty, and the vice-chairman of Yorkshire Water Services, Tony Ward, have already gone. Sir Gordon and the chief executive, Trevor Newton, have taken much of the abuse over their firm's inability to guarantee supplies, particularly in the west of the region.

In the year to March, the company reported pre-tax profits of £142 million, but some of its 2.5 million customers still face 24-hour rota cuts. John Gummer, the Secretary of State for the Environment, will decide next month whether to approve the application for cuts in part of Bradford, Halifax and Calderdale.

The company's figures are expected to take a severe dent by the end of the financial year, which will depress share prices and displease institutional shareholders who often hold sway on board appointments. They are well aware of the £3 million-a-week cost to Yorkshire's profits caused by carrying water by tanker from Northumbria and the eastern part of its own region.

Diane Scott, from the pressure group Yorkshire Water Watch, said: "What I'd like now is a new year present —

the whole board resigning. It shouldn't be just the chairman. At the very least, it must be Trevor Newton too. As a shareholder, I hope Sir Gordon doesn't get any pay-off or golden handshake."

She suggested that the chairman would probably be gone before he faced the first annual general meeting in which shareholders would be able to vote on the chairman's ship. "He knew he'd be in for a lot of flak at the AGM. Customer shareholders would have voted him off the board and it would have been quite realistic to predict institutional shareholders might have thought somebody has to go and targeted him," Gerry



Jones: early retirement from his £163,000 post

Sutcliffe, Labour MP for Bradford South, said: "His departure could pre-empt a takeover bid by another company. This decision has all the hallmarks of that. The only worry I have is he leaves with a good package and leaves all the problems during the drought still there."

Amelia Clayton, 24, from Bradford, a shareholder and consumer, said: "He went before he was pushed. What we need now is somebody at the helm who'll run this company properly. It's a disgrace he's been allowed to carry on as long as he has done."

A Yorkshire Water spokeswoman denied that Sir Gor-

don, who became chairman of the publicly owned Yorkshire Water Authority in 1983, was ducking out under pressure. "He first said he wanted to go early at the AGM last July, before the drought crisis. He is happy to stay on until we find a successor, and Yorkshire Water is happy for him to do so." She refused to discuss any severance package, adding: "It is too early to consider that."

When the company was privatised, shares were sold at £2.40. Last Friday, they were £5.98. The City has admired Yorkshire's cost-cutting, although this has been achieved partly by shedding 1,000 jobs in the past year. In the same period, the company's operating profits of £200 million were up 17.4 per cent on a turnover of £495.3 million.

Many customers have been alienated. In the spring, the company told the wool industry — which employs about 25,000 in the area — that it was imposing an extra fee on its supplies to cover treatment of water that had been tainted by the industry.

The industry threatened to stop paying its bills. Later, at the height of the drought, the company suggested that firms should consider relocating to reduce water demand.

Last month, Yorkshire Water announced that it was to spend £50 million on 18 miles of pipeline and six pumping stations to try to prevent supply cuts in future droughts. Yorkshire's average leak rate is 26 per cent. It hopes this will be reduced to 24 per cent when the improvements have been carried out.

About £13 million has been spent since April on projects to help to maintain supplies. This has included buying thousands of gallons from Northumbrian Water.

Norman Broadbent, the City firm of headhunters which found a director-general for the CBI, has been asked to find Yorkshire's replacement chairman.



Johanna Young, whose murder at the age of 14 in December 1992 remains unsolved

Three years on, father prays for killer's arrest

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE grieving parents of Johanna Young, the schoolgirl whose murder remains unsolved, will pray at her grave today for an end to their ordeal, three years after her body was found.

Police have again appealed for witnesses to contact them.

For Johanna's father, Robert, life has "a missing heart-beat" without the company of the 14-year-old whose face smiles from the photo-plaque set in her black marble headstone in the churchyard of St Mary's on the edge of the Norfolk market town of Watton. It was on Boxing Day 1992, three days after she disappeared, that she was found less than a

mile from home, face down in a water-filled marl pit. When she was dumped along the lane by Wayland Wood, she had a head injury but was still alive: she died from drowning.

In the lounge of the family home, with its Christmas decorations and photographs of his daughter, Mr Young, 42, said: "Yes, I do feel bitterness and it's especially hard to take at this time of the year. But I believe the feeling will ease over the years. We want the person caught. It's like a missing last chapter. We need it before we can close the book. I remain optimistic, though. The police do catch murderers many years after the event."

Police have concluded that the killer is a local man or has close knowledge of the town. Some detectives suspect that he is among the many they have questioned during the inquiry. Because there were no scratches on her heels to indicate that Johanna had been dragged through undergrowth, police have not ruled out the possibility that her killer had an accomplice.

Detective Chief Inspector Peter Billingham said: "We need to find the missing piece of the jigsaw. We renew our appeal for anyone with information to come forward. We still feel there is vital information which for whatever reason we haven't been given."

He added: "There is no medical evidence Johanna had been sexually assaulted though her lower clothing had been removed. She was in the water for three days and we haven't got DNA."

"Whoever was involved

would have known the locality and that knowledge wouldn't have come by stumbling across the spot."

Johanna went out at 7.30pm on December 23, a foggy night, while her father attended to his son Daniel, 11. An hour later she was seen at a café in the High Street. The last sighting was in the town centre at 9pm.

The local community of 6,000 is still tense, according to the Rev John Eyre, former curate at St Mary's, now a clergyman in Lowestoft. Mr Eyre, who conducted Johanna's funeral service, said: "The community is still bewildered and there is a feeling that the matter has not been wrapped up. People feel uneasy in Watton because they know they may be in close proximity to the man who killed Johanna or even talking to him."

At the family's detached house, her bedroom is little changed. Her favourite furry toy animals remain, and many of her clothes hang in the wardrobe.

Mr Young, who has another daughter, Emma, 20, sometimes refers to Johanna in the present tense, his eyes filling with tears. "She was such a bubbly girl. She loved reading and drawing and painting. Everyone got on with her. We miss her terribly. Not a day goes by when we don't think of her."

"I hope that someone, somewhere, in an unguarded moment says something that identifies the person who killed her. The people of Watton are keeping an ear open still."

Family of murdered head says no to a telescope

By A STAFF REPORTER

THERE was no telescope under the Christmas tree yesterday for Lucien Lawrence, the eight-year-old boy who wrote to Santa asking for his murdered father back.

Although well-wishers offered telescopes to the son of Philip Lawrence, the headmaster killed outside his London school, his family decided it would be best for the boy to wait until a less emotional time.

Lucien had written to Father Christmas: "I hope you won't think that I am being a nuisance but I have changed my mind what I want for Christmas. I wanted to have a telescope but now I want to have my Daddy back because without my Daddy to help I will not be able to see the stars anyway."

Laurence Soper, the Abbot of Ealing and a regular visitor to the bereaved family's home, said: "His mother doesn't want Lucien to have a telescope at Christmas because it is associated in his mind with his father."

The Lawrences maintained their tradition of spending a quiet family Christmas at their semi-detached home in West Ealing, Frances, the boy's mother, had taken down the Christmas tree from the loft after her husband died from a knife wound while protecting a pupil leaving his Roman Catholic comprehensive school in Maids Vale on December 8. She told Lucien and his sisters Maroushka, 21, Myfanwy, 19, and Unity, 13: "We will switch on the lights because that is a symbol of life, and we are celebrating Daddy's life."

The murder remains unsolved although it involved a known dispute between two groups of youths and happened in daylight with hundreds of children in the area. Mrs Lawrence has been reassured by the police that they are making every effort to catch her husband's killer.

Father Soper said: "They offered to let her go and see the incident room so they could explain exactly what was happening. She talked to them. She found it very comforting that they obviously went out of their way to involve her and explain and keep her in the picture."

The Lawrence family spent Christmas Day surrounded by thousands of messages from admirers. Many had sent contributions to the appeal organised by Ealing Abbey, the monastery attached to St Benedict's School, where Mr and Mrs Lawrence met as young teachers.

"Mrs Lawrence is immensely grateful for everything that has been done and for people's concern and interest and love," Father Soper said. "She is reading all the messages. She was particularly struck by a large card that a form in a primary school sent her. They had drawn on it and all sent messages."

Donations to The Philip Lawrence Memorial Fund should be sent c/o Ealing Abbey, Charlbury Grove, Ealing, London W5 2DY.



Leah Betts died after taking Ecstasy tablet

Parents celebrate Leah's gift of life

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE father of Leah Betts spoke of his joy yesterday that a woman who received his daughter's organs was fit enough to spend Christmas at home.

Paul Betts, 49, learnt in a letter that the patient, who had been dying from lung disease, made such progress after getting Leah's heart and lungs that she was allowed to leave hospital. She was able to go shopping for presents.

Leah died after taking an Ecstasy tablet during her 18th birthday party in the family home at Latchingdon, Essex. Her parents agreed to let her organs be transplanted.

Mr Betts said: "Seeing a beautiful girl like that, it was a terrible decision to make but we are ever so glad we did because now this woman has got life."

Two men have received Leah's kidneys, a woman received her liver, two people received her corneas. Those six people have got a happy Christmas. Best present anyone can give. We are very pleased about that. It hasn't helped with the loss but it has helped us very much to know that some good has come out of bad. It wasn't a total waste."

The woman with lung disease is in her early 20s and from East Anglia. The three-hour transplant was performed at Papworth Hospital.

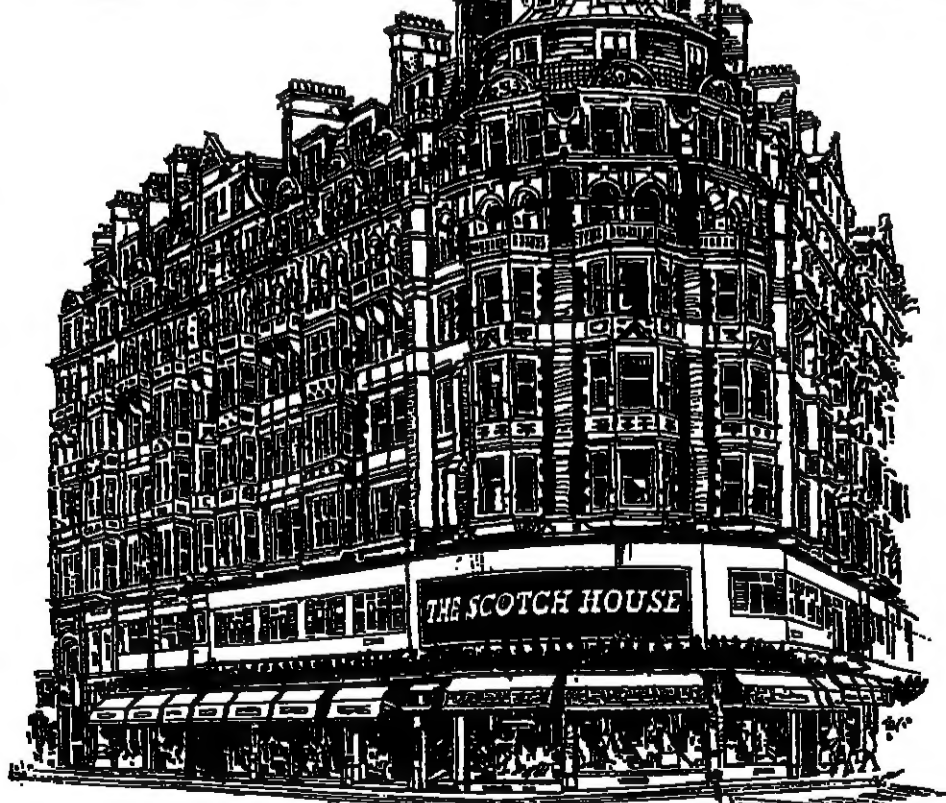
Mr Betts said: "Even part of Leah's trachea was removed and frozen so new-born babies who have breathing problems can have an operation to have part of their trachea replaced."

The Betts family do not know who received the organs but a friend of the woman with lung disease has written twice to tell them about her progress. One of the men who received her kidneys had been on dialysis for 11 years, the other for nine.

Before Leah died, she heard a radio broadcast urging potential organ donors to enter their details on a computer register, but she was told she had to be 18. Mr Betts and his wife, Jan, decided to honour her wishes by offering her body for transplant.

Mr Betts said: "I certainly recommend anybody, if they can donate anything — it doesn't matter what it is — because receiving this letter and knowing about this woman who can laugh, get working, enjoy life again, that's brilliant. Why wasn't a body? Leah is no longer there. She has died and given life to others. That has to be the best Christmas present anybody can give to anybody. I wish somebody could have given it to Leah."

SALE



The Scotch House Sale starts Wednesday, 27th December, 9am-7pm with as much as 40% off our finest selection of Knitwear.

The Scotch House.

London: 2 Brompton Rd, Knightsbridge, SW1. 84-86 & 191 Regent St. W1
Edinburgh: 39-41 Princes St., Glasgow: 64 Buchanan St.
For mail order information please telephone 0171 581 2151.

Mystery woman found in boat lake

By A STAFF REPORTER

POLICE are trying to identify the body of a woman found yesterday in the boating lake at Gravesend, Kent.

The woman is thought to have been aged between 65 and 75. She is described as white, 5ft 6in and wearing a grey jacket and dark skirt.

A police spokesman said: "We still don't know who she is." The woman was discovered when the boatkeeper arrived yesterday morning to do his rounds.

Police said: "He was on a routine patrol when he spotted the woman floating in the middle of the lake." A post-mortem examination will be made tomorrow.

"It's certainly a terrible Christmas tragedy. At this stage, we still don't know if this is a suspicious death. We have no idea how the woman got where she was found or how she died."

"We are carrying out the normal inquiries such as checking missing persons records but in the meantime we would like to hear from anyone who thinks they may know the identity of this mystery woman."

Leeson decides to change his future by degrees

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

NICK LEESON, the jailed former Barings trader, wants to study for qualifications to be able to support his wife when he is freed from prison in Singapore.

The trader who brought down Barings Bank has asked Lisa Leeson to inquire about a business degree that he could undertake while serving a six-and-a-half year sentence in Changi jail.

The Open University is an obvious choice and he might also consider law.

Leeson is acutely aware that, as the man who destroyed Britain's oldest merchant bank, he will have difficulty returning to the jobs market. His criminal record will make it even harder.

He spent Christmas Day in his cell without visitors, presents or a turkey meal. Many time zones away, Mrs Leeson was at her parents' house in West Kingsdown, Kent. She could not communicate with her husband to wish him a Merry Christmas.

The Changi jail is famous for its strict regime. He shares a 10ft square cell with at least two Chinese prisoners, sleeping on a straw mattress on the floor. There is no air conditioning to combat the tropical



Leeson: asked his wife to inquire about courses

heat and no extractor fan to remove smells. His lavatory is a hole in the floor.

Christmas is celebrated in Singapore, a multicultural society that throws itself into festivities of all faiths, including Diwali, the Hindu festival of light, and the Chinese new year. Turkeys imported from the United States are available from the Cold Storage chain of supermarkets but the armed guards at Changi were unlikely to send out for any.

At the prison there were no Christmas concessions — no food parcels or visits. Leeson was offered a small portion of food, an Oriental or Western meal, instead of a festive lunch. He is allowed several

hours a day of relaxation or recreation and can occasionally exercise by playing sport. He can also watch television for brief periods. Most of his time is spent swatting mosquitoes in the cell and pondering his next legal move.

Leeson is considering an appeal against sentence, but risks it being increased to the maximum eight years. He is allowed books and there have been complaints from other prisoners that he gets more than they do. They also grumbled when he was allowed to meet his wife for three hours instead of the usual ten minutes.

Other Barings employees James Bax and Simon Jones are still in Singapore and could face civil action over their role in the crash. In England, Peter Norris is ready to fight any attempt to extradite him.

He is among 12 senior Barings figures suspended by the Securities and Futures Authority whose careers depend on disciplinary action decisions. They could all spend next Christmas watching themselves portrayed by actors on television as Sir David Frost considers whether to turn the Leeson story into a drama for the small screen.

Parents
celebrate
Leah's
1st of life



The half-boy, half-puppet being prepared for the cameras during filming of the latest Pinocchio production

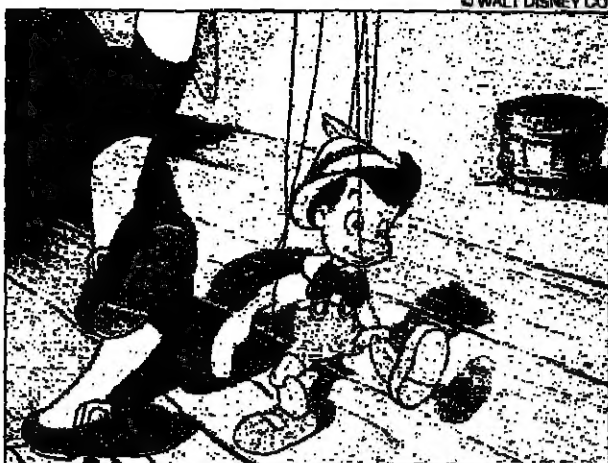
Pinocchio's masters mix fact and fiction in seamless style

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 50 years after Pinocchio first told whoppers for Disney, Carlo Collodi's tale about a wooden puppet that turns into a real boy is being remade with a puppet that looks so real it could almost be human.

Animatronics devised by Jim Henson's Creature Shop in London make the latex marionette smile and laugh, blink and cry. This puppet can comfort its features into every human expression while always looking as if it is made of pine. It has movement in every part of its body, with each limb worked by one of six puppeteers.

The \$30 million (£19 million) movie is directed by Steve Barron, whose previous puppet films include *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. His human cast in *Pinocchio* is headed by the Academy Award-winning Martin Landau as Geppetto, the woodcarver and Pinocchio's creator, and Genevieve Bujold as his long-lost love, Leona. Jonathan Taylor



The way it was: Disney's 1940 Technicolor version

Thomas, who made his name in Disney's *The Lion King*, is the voice of the puppet and the five Pinocchio at the end of the movie.

Mr Barron said: "In the cartoon, there was no wooden boy and no real boy. Here you make it strong because the animatronic puppet lets you do both of those characters just right."

allowed the actors to interact with a real character.

Mr Landau said that he treated the puppet as another actor: "They have raised the technology of animatronics to an amazing degree. A live-action Pinocchio with an actual stringless marionette is unique."

Pinocchio is rodded and cabled, and worked by video monitors. Electric servo-motors activate movement. The puppeteers, who worked be-

low floor level, likened the system to *Bunraku*, the Japanese operation of a three-dimensional puppet: one person on the legs, one on each arm, one on the torso, and a master puppeteer on the head. It is jointed, and has fully working fingers.

British stars include John Sessions, who plays the schoolmaster. "To call this a puppet is like calling the moon-landing a journey. It's creepily real," he said.

John Stephenson, the puppeteers' supervisor and second unit director, said: "It can do anything that a real actor can do. Yet it always needs to look like a puppet; an interesting game."

The main location of the film was the Czech town of Cesky Krumlov, south of Prague, to recreate northern Italy in the 19th century. There will be two weeks of filming at Pinewood studios in January.

Michael Bolingbroke, director of operations and finance at the Creature Shop, expects *Pinocchio* to be the film for the 1990s, just as *ET* was in the 1980s.

Toad escapes clutches of copyright law

By Emma Wilkins

TOAD of Toad Hall and his friends from the riverbank have escaped the clutches of the lawmakers in Brussels and are able to continue delighting children of all ages for the rest of the pantomime season in London.

Performances of the Alan Bennett adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows* at the Old Vic can carry on, despite a ruling that places Kenneth Grahame, the book's author, back in copyright.

The European directive, which becomes law on New Year's Day, means that copyright is extended from 50 to 70 years after the author's death, bringing Britain into line with France and Germany. As a result Grahame, who died in 1932, is back in copyright and all his works are protected until 2002.

However, a clause in the new law protects adaptations made while works were out of copyright. When Bennett wrote his adaptation five years ago, Grahame had been out of copyright for eight years.

The Bodleian Library in Oxford, which has a 1908 first edition of *The Wind in the Willows*, is the ultimate beneficiary of Grahame's will and can look forward to collecting royalties from future theatrical versions that use the characters of Toad, Rat, Mole and their friends.

David Vaisey, Bodley's librarian (as the head of the Bodleian is titled) is phlegmatic about the escape clause, which is currently being examined by the university's lawyers.

"We're getting our legal people to take a look at it but there's one thing that I am certain of, which is that one

can't claim for the missing period in between 1982 and 1995. It's a bit of a shame, given the success of Alan Bennett's Christmas show," he said.

Grahame wrote *The Wind in the Willows* for his son Alastair, nicknamed Mouse, who died aged 20 in tragic circumstances: while an undergraduate at Oxford in 1920 he suffered a religious crisis, lay down on a railway line and was decapitated.

Grahame's family had decided they could not afford to send him to Oxford and he became a clerk at the Bank of England instead. When he died in 1932, Grahame bequeathed his royalties to Oxford University for the use of the Bodleian Library.

Other artists whose work will enter revived copyright in the new year include Gustav Holst, Sir Edward Elgar and Frederick Delius, who all died in 1934; D.H. Lawrence (1930); Rudyard Kipling (1936); James Joyce (1941); and Beatrix Potter (1943).

Peter Groves, a legal consultant at Bircham & Co who is also an expert in intellectual property and competition law, said the library could look forward to royalties from any future exploitation of Grahame's works.

"The Bodleian, as the former copyright owner, will become the revived copyright owner and will be entitled to royalties from January 1."

Any future adaptation which includes the copyright work will be liable to make payments to the Bodleian. As the holders of the copyright the library could prevent any further use of Grahame's works.



Jeremy Sinden, Toad in the Old Vic adaptation

Forgotten son sends father into a spin

A FORGETFUL motorcyclist caused a scare when he reported that his son had fallen off the back of his bike.

The man was on an 80-mile trip from Colchester in Essex to Strood in Kent to visit his daughter for Christmas when he realised the 13-year-old boy was missing. He telephoned his daughter, who contacted police and hospitals.

The man telephoned from the Dartford Bridge toll barrier when he realised there was nobody in the pillion seat. He then began to retrace his route.

Half an hour later, however, after much telephoning by his daughter, the boy was found never to have left home. PC

David Jones, of Colchester police, said: "It seems dad had set off in such a hurry he left the lad behind. He didn't realise he wasn't on the bike until he reached the Kent side of the Dartford Bridge."

"He told his daughter he must have fallen off on the M25 or A12. She was frantic with worry. She alerted police and then started phoning everyone she could think of. She even rang Colchester Hospital to see if he was there."

"Luckily we were able to ascertain within a few minutes that the boy was still at home. But dad didn't find out until he got all the way back." Police have agreed not to name the motorcyclist.

SALE

STARTS 9.30am WEDNESDAY

GET DOWN TO YOUR LOCAL ESCOM STORE AND MAKE A KILLING!

ESCOCOM P75 PCI MINI TOWER

- Intel 75MHz Pentium Processor • 1Gb (1024Mb) Hard Disk Drive • 8Mb RAM • 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive • 1Mb PCI Graphic Card • 14" NI Monitor • Mini Tower Case • Keyboard • 12 Months On-site Warranty • 12 Months Telephone Support.

WAS £849.00+VAT £997.58 inc.VAT

NO DEPOSIT ONLY £38.00 PER MONTH 27% APR VARIABLE

TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE: £1328.47. ALL PRICES INCLUSIVE OF VAT. SUBJECT TO STATUS. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE FROM FIRST RETAIL FINANCE LTD, PO BOX 207, CLAYTON LANE, LEEDS LS2 2DG.

COMMODORE P60 MINI TOWER

- Intel 60MHz Pentium Processor • 1Gb (1024Mb) Hard Disk Drive • 8Mb RAM • 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive • 14" Monitor • Mini Tower Case • Keyboard • Windows 95 • Quicken 4.0 CD • Muse • Hutchinson Encyclopedia • Novell Perfect Office • 12 Months On-site Warranty

WAS £799.00+VAT £938.83 inc.VAT

SAVE £50 -VAT £749.00 +VAT £880.08 inc.VAT

COMMODORE P60 MULTIMEDIA MINI TOWER

SPECIFICATION AS ABOVE BUT WITH:

- Quad Speed CD ROM Drive • 16 Bit Sound Card • Speakers

WAS £948.00+VAT £1113.90 inc.VAT

SAVE £50 -VAT £898.00 +VAT £1055.15 inc.VAT

CHOICE OF SOFTWARE BUNDLES ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS

HP DESKJET 600

The perfect printer for the home - everything you want and colour when you need it. • 600x600dpi black and 300x300dpi colour • HP's Resolution Enhancement and ColourSmart technology • 4 pages per minute • 14 Scalable Typefaces • Optional colour cartridge and storage container • HP PrintSmart for Windows • 3 years Warranty

PRICE WHEN PURCHASED WITH AN ESCOM PC

WAS £189.00+VAT £179.00 +VAT £210.33 inc.VAT

OPTIONAL COLOUR KIT £30+VAT £35.25 inc.VAT

NORMAL PRINTER PRICE £199.00+VAT £233.83 inc.VAT

SPECIAL DEAL

Disney Lion King Print Studio with HP Deskjet 600

PRICE WHEN PURCHASED WITH AN ESCOM PC

WAS £209.00+VAT £245.58 inc.VAT

NORMAL PRINTER DEAL PRICE £229.00+VAT £269.08 inc.VAT

MULTIMEDIA FROM

UPGRADE OPTIONS £99.00 +VAT £116.33 inc.VAT

OVER 200 STORES NATIONWIDE
FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE

0990 100888

OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9.30am-6.00pm THURSDAY 9.30am-8.00pm
SATURDAY 9.00am-5.30pm SUNDAY 10.00am-4.00pm

OFFICE WORLD OPENING HOURS
MONDAY - FRIDAY 8.00am-8.00pm
SATURDAY 9.00am-6.00pm SUNDAY 10.30am-4.30pm

OPENING TIMES MAY VARY FROM STORE TO STORE. CHECK LATE NIGHT & SUNDAY OPENING TIMES WITH YOUR LOCAL STORE.

FINANCE AVAILABLE CREDIT CARD ACCEPTED ALL PRODUCTS CARRY FULL WARRANTY TRY ANY SOFTWARE BEFORE YOU BUY EXPERT FINANCIAL ADVICE LATE NIGHT OPENING THURSDAY

BUSINESS USERS BUY DIRECT ON 0990 555888

Windows 95 or OS/2 Warp is pre-installed on systems. Other applications supplied on CD-ROMs are available for an additional charge. Prices valid from 27th December 1995. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium Processor logo are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. Prices and details are correct at time of going to press. Offers are subject to availability and specification changes without notice. Escocom warranties and credit facilities available subject to credit approval only. All Escocom systems come with 12 months warranty. Windows 95/98 available from Microsoft Corporation Ltd, PO Box 599, Clippell Lane, Leamington Spa, CV31 3LE. All products may not be available in all stores.

easyware **ESCOM**

FROM

UNIQUE PACKAGE THAT OFFERS YOU TOP QUALITY HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE PLUS THE KIND OF PERSONAL HELP AND ADVICE THAT MAKES CHOOSING THE RIGHT PC EASY. ALL BACKED BY A FULL SUPPORT SERVICE AND ON-SITE WARRANTIES.

THE EASY WAY TO CHOOSE A PC

ESCOM UK LIMITED 3 RIVERSIDE WAY, RIVERSIDE BUSINESS PARK, IRVINE KAH SDJ
TEL: 01294 222600 FAX: 01294 223200 Registered in Scotland Reg No. 137446



Worried travel trade tempts holidaymakers to book early

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE travel industry, faced with a 25 per cent drop in bookings compared with the same time last year, is trying to tempt holidaymakers to reserve their summer break immediately after Christmas.

Lunn Poly, Britain's biggest travel retailer, has introduced a "book now, pay later" scheme to enable holidaymakers to spread payments. When the company's 792 travel shops open tomorrow, they will offer customers a discount of 10 per cent, free holiday insurance, or an interest-free chance of spreading the cost.

Peter Povey, Lunn Poly's

marketing director, said last night: "Around a million people book their overseas summer holiday in January and around a quarter of our customers have told us that they would prefer the option of spreading the holiday cost rather than taking a discount."

The "easy pay" scheme is available on holidays costing more than £200 and allows payments to be made in four monthly instalments.

Thomson is also trying to woo early bookers through a scheme known as "fluid pricing" under which more than a

million holidays are offered at big discounts now but will gradually increase in price as demand grows.

Charles Newbold, Thomson's managing director, said that the idea had been picked up from the American cruise industry and was intended to prevent the growing trend of holidaymakers deliberately booking as late as possible to obtain the biggest discount.

"This is a dramatically different way of doing things," he said. "Instead of the price being high to start with and being reduced later on, we are cutting it by the maximum at

first and then increasing it in line with demand. So people who book first will get the discount and those who wait might not."

Other measures being taken by an increasingly worried travel industry include discounts of up to 10 per cent on many brochures, free child places and, from First Choice, free grandparent places on a number of summer holidays.

The main assault, however, comes in the widespread and hard-hitting campaign to convince holidaymakers that they must book early.

Going Places, for example,

says that with a million fewer holidays available next year, customers may not be able to get the holidays they want, or even a holiday at all unless they book in January.

The Germans are beating a path to the top beaches in Europe and their holiday sales are booming," Tony Bennett, managing director of Going Places, said. "They are taking advantage of slow sales in Britain and snapping up our holiday beds."

Discounts of up to 15 per cent for summer 1996 holidays will be offered by Thomas Cook. The new packages, which can be booked from Saturday, involve 15 per cent off some prices in its own brochure and 10 per cent off those of other companies.

From December 30, Thomas Cook is providing child-free places for bookings made on five successive Saturdays. The company is also offering discounts on cruises of up to 25 per cent.

Nigel Hards, Thomas Cook's retail director, said: "We have to be realistic. With capacity already cut and demand likely to remain consistent with last year, cheap late deals will not be as prevalent as in 1995. We therefore anticipate a strong post-Christmas period, with more bookings from couples and families who want to secure their place in the sun next summer."

Bargain hunters stalk kitchen cabinets

By ROBIN YOUNG

AFTER the stress of producing yesterday's lunch, today is the day the nation goes to buy new kitchens.

While department stores and boutiques, except some in Scotland, wait until tomorrow to launch their winter sales, Boxing Day has become one of the most important in the year for do-it-yourself stores selling kitchen units.

The 194 stores in the MFI chain have been closed since last Wednesday to give 5,500 staff breathing space, while B&Q leads its winter sale, also launched today in 260 Supercentre stores, with a third of selected kitchens. The Texas chain, with 229 stores all open today, is countering with discounts of between 10 and 25 per cent on kitchen packages. Many manag-

ers expect to do more business today than they have done in the previous six weeks.

Sue Murphy, the finance director of MFI, said: "Boxing Day has become one of our busiest days of the year. December is quiet for us but today is when the crowds come flocking back." Simon Morris of Texas said: "Christmas Eve was quiet enough for us to set up the sale. After a big meal and lots of cooking at home, Boxing Day is the day families come out to look for a new set of units."

The prospects for other winter sales starting tomorrow in many department stores and fashion shops around the country are mixed. "We will be making the smallest mark-downs for the sales that we have ever had," said Maurice Bennett, deputy chairman of the Oasis fashion chain. "That is because Christ-

mas has been so good." The sale, which starts in Scottish branches today but elsewhere tomorrow, is still making some cuts of between 30 and 50 per cent.

James Mays, director of the British Retail Consortium, said: "It looks to have been a record Christmas with sales between 3 per cent and 4 per cent up. That means a gain of between 1 per cent and 2 per cent, so it is encouraging, but people have not been going mad."

Marks & Spencer, which starts its sale in all stores tomorrow, promised "really good value across the board". Liberty, the Regent Street store, said: "Everything has been selling really well before Christmas so we have had to make a lot of special purchases for the winter sale."

Winter sales, pages 28, 29



Patrick Flannery, aged 2, who has leukaemia, enjoys Christmas at the Royal Marsden

Parents given light of hope by caring staff

By JOHN YOUNG

PATRICK FLANNERY, 2½, Daniel Clark, 6, and Christopher Elstathiou, 9, have something in common. For each, yesterday was his first Christmas since being diagnosed as having cancer.

Not long ago, they and their parents might have expected it to be their last. Today, thanks to the huge advances in research and treatment at the children's cancer unit of the Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton, south London, they have a better-than-even chance of recovery.

Christmas at the unit begins with the night-nurses bringing in sacks of toys, mostly donated by well-wishers. Treatment must continue as usual, but there is a Christmas lunch for patients, families, and staff, an afternoon visit from Santa Claus and a help-yourself buffet all evening. Patricia Cushing, the ward manager, says: "We try to enjoy ourselves as much as possible."

Enjoyment has become unfamiliar for parents. Last summer, Patrick began to show bruises and suffered

THE TIMES Christmas Appeal in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital

nosebleeds. Leukaemia was diagnosed. Since then his mother, Nicola, and her husband, Mark, who live near Guildford and have two other sons, have been taking turns to stay at the hospital.

"Patrick was always a very lively boy so it was a shock to learn how ill he was," she said. "But the staff have been wonderful. Nothing is too much trouble and Patrick never seems to mind coming back."

Daniel became ill in May and was found to have a tumour in his stomach. It is responding well to treatment. The news was also a great shock to his mother, Diane, 29. Hospital staff, she says, seem to be able to help people to get over the worst that can happen to them.

Preoccupied with crackers and other Christmas excitement, Daniel was, however,

able to disclose that he had written a letter to Santa Claus; he could not remember what he had asked to be given.

Myeloid leukaemia was diagnosed as Christopher's illness in March. He recently finished chemotherapy but had to be readmitted with flu. His mother, Maria, 37, who has another son, said: "It is something you have to learn to live with. But it's always on your mind. The hospital has been marvellous; the staff have gone out of their way to help."

The prognosis for Ramond Bryson, 5, offers less hope. In March he developed Wilms' tumour, which has spread from his kidney to his lungs and has so far failed to respond to two courses of chemotherapy. He has been allowed home between treatments but has had to attend the hospital for blood transfusions, and was recently readmitted with an infection, the result of weakened immunity.

His mother, Faith Jadersingh, 30, of Bromley, says: "This time last year Ramond was running around, playing karate. Now, put it this way: we just don't know when he is going to die."

Ms Jadersingh, a college lecturer, has two other children: the younger is being looked after by her grandmother in Jamaica because Ms Jadersingh has to spend so much time at the hospital.

She says: "Sometimes he asks me: 'Mummy, am I going to die?' I have to be truthful and say 'I don't know.' 'Will you come with me to look after me?' he says. I say 'I just don't know. If it is God's will.' 'I must be very brave then,' he says."

By Friday, the Times Christmas Appeal had raised more than £75,500 for the children's cancer unit. We and the hospital are grateful for our readers' generosity but more money is always needed for research to save more children. We hope that the appeal will reach six figures this week.

Yes, I want to help

I enclose a cheque / postal order (payable to the Royal Marsden Children's Cancer Unit) for £.....

Or, please debit my Visa / Mastercard / Amex / Diners Club card

Expiry date / Today's date / /

Signature

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

DAYTIME PHONE No.

To make an instant credit card donation, please telephone 0171-376 5173, or send this coupon with your donation to:

The Royal Marsden Children's Cancer Unit Appeal, Downs Road, Sutton, Surrey SM2 5PT.

Reg. Charity No. 374034

Please note: a donation of £20 or more is worth a third as much again through Gift Aid as we can claim back the tax.

☐ Tick this box if you would like a receipt.



Drugs trial aims to increase survival of remission patients

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Royal Marsden Hospital has started a trial to discover whether an extra course of drugs can improve the chances of a complete cure for patients with myeloma, cancer of the bone marrow cells.

While existing treatments at the hospital achieve remission in more than half of the patients, there is always a risk of recurrence in these apparently healthy people.

Dr Ray Powles, who runs the myeloma and leukaemia units at the hospital, said: "In these patients we cannot detect any sign of the cancer by conventional hospital tests. We have so far got 200 patients into this condition, which is a big step forward because it wasn't possible in the 1970s."

The results have been achieved by a triple course of treatment, including high doses of drugs to kill the

cancer, a transplant of bone marrow stem cells taken from the patient to restore the immune system after chemotherapy, and finally the use of interferon, a naturally occurring anti-viral material that inhibits cell multiplication.

In patients for whom this regimen leads to complete remission, myeloma cells can no longer be detected, but it is possible to identify abnormal immune system cells called pre-B cell lymphocytes whose normal job is to produce antibodies to defend against infection. These abnormal cells are the seeds from which recurrence of the cancer can spring.

"These cells are similar to those seen in leukaemia patients, so I thought it would be worth trying a similar strategy against them," Dr Powles said. In all 138 patients are to be recruited and split randomly into two equal groups,

one of which will be given an extra course of chemotherapy.

The extra course of treatment will take about five days and be given in hospital. All those taking part in the trial are volunteers already in complete remission from the disease. The first 11 patients have already been recruited. The first analysis of results will take place in about two years, but it will be a further four years at least before conclusions can be drawn.

Dr Powles is hoping that the result will improve survival. At present, those in remission can expect to remain healthy for between seven and eight years, but "all but a few" are likely to find that the disease returns.

Myeloma is not among the commonest of cancers, but there are about 2,500 new cases every year, divided equally between men and women.

THE B&Q BIG SALE

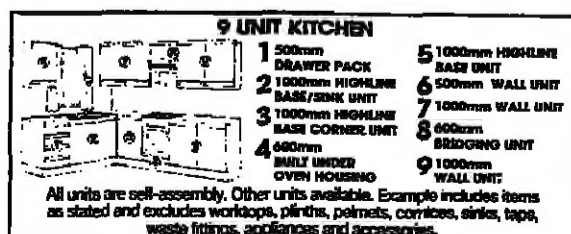
HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST

40 TO CHOOSE FROM

1/3 OFF SELECTED KITCHENS

Offer available while stocks last on Camberley (Shawn), Ashley, Sherburn, Craftsman Honey, Craftsman Cognac, Chaucer, Marlowe, Rosetti, Shelley, Dryden, Huckleberry, Delille, Volery, Chamfort and Moliere kitchens.

Example 9 unit Camberley Kitchen
WAS £539.91
NOW **£359.93**
Excluding installation



All units are self-assembly. Other units available. Example includes items as stated and excludes worktops, plinths, pelmets, cornice, sink, taps, waste fittings, appliances and accessories.

STARTS TODAY 10AM - 5PM

Sizes shown are approximate. Offers subject to availability, please phone to check before travelling. Prices and offers may vary at B&Q Warehouses, B&Q Depots or The Depot. See in store for details of our price promise. All kitchens may not be displayed in all stores but can be ordered from any B&Q. The Over 60's Club Card cannot be used to purchase kitchens.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DIY CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0181 466 4166

OPENING HOURS

Monday-Saturday most stores 9am-6pm, except today 26th Dec.
Boxing Day 10am-5pm, Sunday 31st Dec 10am-4pm (Scotland 9am-5pm).
Monday 1st Jan 10am-6pm (Scotland closed).
Tuesday 2nd Jan 9am-6pm (Scotland 10am-5pm).

INTEREST FREE CREDIT* ON OUR NEW KITCHENS† INCLUDING INSTALLATION AND APPLIANCES

We have 40 superb new designs from the modern to the traditional and all can be available on Interest Free Credit on purchases of £1,800 or more in one transaction, on B&Q kitchen units, appliances and installation†.

Example Repayment Table:

Purchase Price	£1,800
20% Minimum Deposit	£360
Loan Value	£1,440
Repaid in 18 monthly instalments	£80
Total amount payable	£1,800

*IFC subject to acceptance and to UK residents only. Ask in-store for details. Written quotations available on request ring (01132) 471 471. †Excludes kitchens from in-store stock, delivery costs (where applicable) and kitchens included in the 1/3 off offer. Ask in-store for details.

Purchase Price	IFC Period
£1,800 - £2,399.99	18 months
£2,400 or over	24 months

You can do it when you B&Q it!

B&Q

Uncertainty on new Ankara government as Ciller resigns but keeps coalition chances open

Turkish pro-Islamic party falls short of majority

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

A PHOTO-FINISH election has left Turks wondering about their future as the results of Christmas Eve's poll indicate that a pro-Islamic party will be the largest grouping in the new parliament.

Tansu Ciller, the Turkish Prime Minister, submitted her resignation to President Demirel yesterday, although she stays on in a caretaker role.

By custom the President should ask Necmettin Erbakan, 70, to form the next government. His Welfare Party came first, with 21.3 per cent of the 28 million valid votes cast, but that gave him only 158 deputies — well short of a majority in the 550-seat Grand National Assembly.

Some people see the result as a challenge to the secular vision of the founding father of modern Turkey, Kemal Ataturk, but others regard it as a test of the state's ability to accommodate rival ideologies.

Only two percentage points separated Welfare from its two main rivals. Mrs Ciller's True Path party came third in



Ciller: staying on in caretaker role



Ataturk: founded the secular state in 1923

terms of votes. Even so, this left her party the second largest in parliament with 135 seats — three more than a rival right-of-centre party, the Motherland, led by Mesut Yilmaz.

Yesterday Mr Yilmaz rejected a possible coalition with Mr Erbakan. Mrs Ciller, who fought her campaign as the way forward into Europe, is also unlikely to alienate sup-

porters by forming an alliance with a party she branded a "force of darkness".

The Welfare Party appears to have capitalised on the perception inside Turkey that Mrs Ciller, along with her husband, was running a Government for the benefit of a close coterie.

Most Turks believe Mr Erbakan's extravagant anti-Western and anti-Zionist rhet-

oric to be far worse than his bite. Even as the election results were coming in, Bahri Zengin, a close adviser, was modifying a pledge to "tear up" a recently approved customs union with Brussels, saying the party would "renegotiate" the agreement.

Even greater than the fear of Islamic policies is the concern that the Western financial community on which Turkey relies will simply wait to see how a government will take shape. If that process is lengthy, the Turkish economy will suffer.

Many believe, therefore, that Mr Demirel might break with tradition and mandate a Prime Minister who stands the best chance of forming a government. "Him and her," said a close adviser to Mrs Ciller yesterday, a reference to his leader and Mr Yilmaz.

The trouble is not just the deep animosity between the two leaders but that the parliamentary arithmetic does not add up. Together, the Centre-



Necmettin Erbakan yesterday celebrating the success of his Welfare Party in the Turkish elections. The pro-Islamic party is the largest in the new parliament but failed to gain enough seats to form a government

Right is nine seats short of the "majority" of 276 deputies. Some commentators suggest the two could form a minority administration with the support of a left-of-centre party.

Deniz Baykal, whose Republican People's Party has

been in coalition with Mrs Ciller, received 50 seats. Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Democratic Left party, increased his standing from ten in the last parliament to 75.

The ultra-right National Action party, which believes it

could solve Turkey's Kurdish problem in weeks by force, failed to get 10 per cent of the national vote and was disqualified from receiving any seats.

A Kurdish nationalist People's Democracy Party, despite a strong showing in the

southeast, also failed to qualify, getting just over 4 per cent. Tehran: Iran's state-run radio welcomed the Islamic party's success, saying it was likely to shift secular Ankara towards a more pro-Islamic stand. (Reuters)

14 killed in Inkatha assault

Durban: At least 14 people died yesterday in South Africa's KwaZulu/Natal province in a raid by Inkatha Freedom Party warriors on supporters of the rival African National Congress, police said.

Several hundred Inkatha supporters armed with spears, axes and guns launched the attack on the Shobashobane settlement, burning more than 40 dwellings and looting 15 others. The attack, the third mass killing in the southeastern province in 11 days, was launched in defiance of a security force crackdown and a renewed peace initiative this month by President Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthe, the Inkatha leader. The 14 dead, who were shot and stabbed, included women and children. (Reuters)

Fire kills gorillas

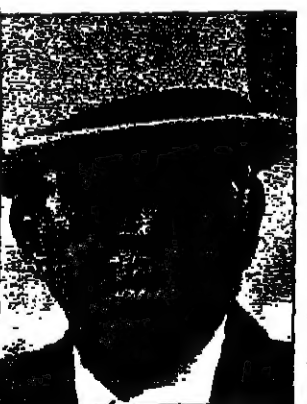
Philadelphia: A fire at the zoo here on Christmas Eve destroyed the primates' house, killing 23 rare animals. Among them were three gorillas who had lived at the zoo for 27 years.

Crash pointer

Washington: Colombian and US officials inspecting the flight data recorder from last week's crash of an American Airlines Boeing 757, in which 160 people died, say human error was the cause. (AFP)

Malawi divided

Blantyre: The acquittal of Hastings Banda, below, the former President, on charges of conspiring to murder four opposition politicians during three decades of autocratic rule, has divided Malawians.



Police treat Devil's Well cult deaths as murder

FROM ADAM SAGE IN ST-PIERRE-DE-CHERENNES

FRENCH police have launched a murder inquiry after the discovery of the charred, bullet-ridden remains of 16 members of the Order of the Solar Temple.

Detectives believe that at least some of the victims, including three children, were assassinated in a copy of the bizarre ceremony that left 53 of the sect's followers dead last year.

The bodies were found by a huntsman in dense forest outside the village of St-Pierre-de-Cherennes, 20 miles from Grenoble, on Saturday.

The victims had been drugged, shot and burnt, almost certainly several days before they were discovered, police believe.

Jean-François Lorans, the Grenoble prosecutor, said: "All the bodies have one or several bullet wounds. Boxes containing sedatives or drugs were found, as well as traces of dark plastic bags on the faces of certain victims."

M Lorans said he thought the "two or three assassins" had probably committed suicide after shooting the other sect members. "We believe that the circumstances in which these acts were carried out involve a degree of preparation, deliberation and premeditation that implies criminal organisation."

The site at which the massacre took place appears to confirm his theory. The victims' cars were found in a parking lot on a narrow and winding mountain road in the Vercors region, east of Grenoble. From there, the sect's



Police examine the forest clearing where members of the Order of the Solar Temple were found dead

followers walked for 20 minutes along a mud track almost certainly carrying their children. They stopped near a grove, known as the Devil's Well, at a clearing in the forest now marked by the ashes of their pyre. The victims sat in the shape of a star to meet their deaths.

Yesterday a French gendarme patrolling the area said: "They must have planned all this with immense care. Only locals know this spot and at night you need to be well prepared to find it. From what I can gather, they killed themselves in the early hours of December 15."

A pensioner from St-Pierre-de-Cherennes said: "It is obvious they wanted to die. In the dark in those woods, it would have been possible to escape as they walked towards the clearing. They cannot have tried to break free."

The victims included two French police officers, one of whom died with his wife, and two children, aged two and four. They also included Edith

and Patrick Vuarnet, wife and son of the French ski champion, Jean Vuarnet. Patrick Vuarnet's partner, Ute, and her six-year-old daughter were among the dead.

Geneva: Swiss investigators rejected suggestions that they could have done more to prevent the new massacre involving the Order of the Solar Temple (Peter Capella writes).

André Piller, the investigating magistrate leading the inquiry, admitted that their findings did not rule out another massacre or collective suicide. The sect was not outlawed, because there was no apparent threat by the remaining members to public order, and it did not qualify as a criminal organisation. Mr Piller indicated that this could now change.

Police have been unable to explain why they did not worry about the winter solstice on December 21, known to be a favoured date in the sect for passage to another world.

Sirius is sect's guiding light

BY ADAM SAGE

Even among experts, the Order of the Solar Temple was scarcely known until last year.

Although its guru, Luc Jouret, had attracted attention with his obsessional rambling about death, the sect itself had remained hidden, operating like a well-oiled secret society.

Joseph Di Mambro, its manipulative grandmaster, rarely spoke at conferences and never put his name to the many tracts and brochures produced by the Order. Some

of the sect's more recent members had no idea of his role or importance.

The events of October 5, 1994, changed all that. Two peaceful Swiss villages, Cheiry and Granges-sur-Salvan, woke to discover that 48 people had died in chalets destroyed by overnight fires, ignited deliberately.

Under one of the buildings officers found a strange prayer room, decorated with mirrors and an altar round which 23 bodies had been arranged in a circle. All had been shot. In the other chalet, in

Granges-sur-Salvan, the victims had apparently been sedated before dying in the blaze.

Five more of the sect's followers were killed, or committed suicide, at the same time in Quebec, Canada.

According to an Italian expert, Massimo Introvigne, the order believes that the end of the world is close and that the cataclysm will be directed by a chosen few from the star, Sirius. In order to reach Sirius, followers must become "immortal masters": in other words, they have to die.

Russians tell of bloody Chechen battle

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

NEARLY two weeks after Chechen rebels seized the breakaway republic's second largest town, sparking a ferocious battle with Russian troops, the full scale of the human and material loss in Gudermes is coming to light.

According to General Anatoli Shkirko, the Russian commander in Chechnya, at least 267 Chechens were killed in the street fighting as Russian ground forces, backed by helicopter gunships and artillery, drove out a force of more than 800 Chechen separatists.

The Russians have reportedly lost between 40 and 100 troops in the operation, including 32 servicemen listed

as missing, whose bodies were later found "mutilated beyond recognition". Colonel Vladimir Peretrushin, the deputy commander of Interior Ministry forces based in the town 20 miles east of Grozny, the capital, said at the weekend that half the buildings on some streets of Gudermes had been completely destroyed in the Russian bombardment.

The heavy-handed counter-attack showed that the Russians have not improved their fighting techniques since their devastating siege of Grozny this time last year. But they have become more media-conscious and this time local and foreign reporters were kept well away from the battle ground, ensuring no embarrassing television pictures or

critical news reports. The rebel operation to capture and hold Gudermes was launched on December 14 and intended to disrupt Chechnya's participation in the nationwide parliamentary elections held three days later.

The separatist leadership, under General Dzhokhar Dudayev, made it clear that it regarded the election as a de facto recognition of Russia's sovereignty over their state, which has been fighting for independence from Moscow for more than a year.

The Gudermes operation failed to halt the election of a pro-Kremlin candidate to the Duma, the lower house of parliament, but it did wreck any hopes of a peace deal being agreed under the terms

of the disengagement accord reached by both sides in August.

With only six months to go before presidential elections in Russia, President Yeltsin is now faced with some difficult choices. Hardliners in his entourage, such as General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, are pressing for a risky military option to wipe out the main Chechen rebel strongholds south of Grozny once and for all.

At Golskoye. In a revival of Sharia (Koran-based law), Umar Khasakhonov, one of General Dudayev's top field commanders, has received a public punishment of ten lashes with a long wooden stick for an altercation with one of his fighters. (Reuters)

THE BIGGEST BRANDS... THE BIGGEST SAVINGS! THOUSANDS MORE BARGAINS IN STORE!

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST SALE

LEXMARK WINWRITER 200 LASER PRINTER (Code 303-549)
 ● 300 x 300 dpi resolution
 ● 150 sheet feeder
 ● Accepts paper, labels, transparencies
 ● Standard buffer memory 512K
 ● Toner life approx. 3,000 pages
58% off Business Products

DELUXE OPERATORS CHAIR (Code 303-710/711)
 ● Gas seat height and backrest adjustment
 ● Large base seat
 ● Choice of Post and Chisel colours
 ● Separate arm sets £18.00 plus VAT
77% off Furniture

OFFICE WORLD ECONOMY LETTER TRAYS (Code 071-711/712/713)
 ● Tough polystyrene construction
 ● Takes A4 and Folio paper
 ● Stackable in different positions
 ● Available in 4 colours
 ● Pack of 4 trays sold separately
 55p plus VAT (Code 071-751)
57% off Office Supplies

ESSELTE PVC LEVER ARCH FILE (Code 033-113/114/115/116/117/118/119)
 ● Front cover lock
 ● Label holder
 ● Thumb hole
 ● Available in 5 colours
73% off Stationery

1996 PLANNERS AND DIARIES Unbeatable prices and selection. All sizes and formats.

"I've never seen so much %off so many products"

ADVANTAGE LOAN PLAN Take it away today. Take up to 5 years to pay.
 ● SPREAD THE COST OF YOUR PURCHASES OVER UP TO 5 YEARS - NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED
 ● LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS - PAYMENT PROTECTION AVAILABLE
 CREDIT EXAMPLE: On loan of £200 (including credit protection insurance) 48 monthly payments of £4.95. All loans subject to credit and only available to individuals applying in their own name. Terms and conditions available on request. (United Credit Bank)

OVER 5,000 OFFICE SUPPLIES, STATIONERY, FURNITURE & BUSINESS PRODUCTS - AT GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES.

PHONE OR FAX YOUR ORDER
TEL: (0345) 444700 FAX: (0345) 556688
 LINES OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY 8.00am-5.00pm
 (except New Year's Eve 10.30am-4.30pm)

41 SUPERSTORES NATIONWIDE
 BEDFORD · BIRMINGHAM · BLACKPOOL · BRADFORD · BRISTOL · CAMBRIDGE
 CHELMSFORD · CHELTENHAM · CHESTER · COVENTRY · DUNDEE · EXETER
 GLASGOW · GLoucester · HANLOW · LEICESTER · LINCOLN · LONDON (Goldings, Old Kent Road, Park Royal, Tottenham, Western Avenue) · LUTON · MANCHESTER · MILTON KEYNES · NORTHAMPTON · NOTTINGHAM · OXFORD · PORTSMOUTH · PRESTON
 READING · SHEFFIELD · SLOUGH · SOUTHILL · SOUTHAMPTON · SWINDON · TAUNTON
 WARRINGTON · WIGAN · YORK

Office World
 The No 1 Office Supplies Discount Superstore

There's always more %off at Office World

All services shown in this advertisement are subject to change at all Office World Superstores open at 25th November 1995 and by a period of 28 days in the previous 4 months. The most exclusive reduced prices are available on selected lines only. All prices and recommended retail prices are exclusive of VAT at 17.5%. Prices valid until January 1996. An England, Scotland and Wales, excluding Scottish Highlands, Islands of the Hebrides and Northern Ireland. Please allow up to 4 days for delivery.

Troops separated from families treat children to gifts and a ride on their tanks

British soldiers recruit Santa for Nato's campaign

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN GORNJI VAKUF

BRITISH soldiers across Bosnia yesterday held Christmas parties for children to ease the pain of being separated from their families.

Santa Claus arrived at a party in Gornji Vakuf on top of a white 25-tonne Warrior armoured personnel carrier with a bagful of toys and sweets over his shoulder. As the Warrior ground to a halt, 120 Muslim children invited by a Royal Artillery brigade mobbed Santa.

Officers asked them to queue for presents, but had to give way to an overwhelming onslaught by the children, dressed in best outfits and sucking Harrods lollipops.

Croat children had declined to attend, but to the 10,000 British soldiers in Bosnia Christmas parties are a welcome opportunity to enjoy the festive season away from home. Lieutenant Phil Douthwaite said: "I have two kids at home. Seeing these kids here enjoying themselves means I don't miss my own so much."

At another party, across the front line in Krupa, soldiers from the Light Dragoons invited Serb children to ride on their tanks. At first reluctant, they were lured on to the vehicles by presents and then started enjoying it so much that their fathers joined in. Afterwards they exchanged unloaded weapons with the Light Dragoons and shared a bottle of citrus vodka with them in a roadside bar.

Away from the parties, 15 padres with the British troops held carol services for the soldiers. The Rev Leslie Bryan, the Fourth Senior Chaplain, said: "It is very important that we celebrate Christmas wholeheartedly. Not only because we are away from our families but also because we are here to bring peace. Hence it is right and proper that we

celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace."

On Mount Igman, overlooking Sarajevo, 50 gunners from the 19/5 Battery of the Royal Artillery sang "O Come All Ye Faithful", "Once in the Royal David's City" and "The First Nowell" within shouting distance of the Serb trenches.

The singing was apparently not much appreciated by the Serbs. A Chinook helicopter landing nearby had to fire off

BOSNIA

flares, used to confuse ground to air missiles, after being "locked on" by one.

After the service — held near the grounds of the 1984 Sarajevo Winter Olympics, most of which has been destroyed — the gunners had lunch of turkey and brussels sprouts with bacon rolls, served by officers as is the army tradition on Christmas Day.

Christmas Eve, however, was the real morale-booster for many soldiers. Divided by rank, they spent the evening away from their duties, which normally last till after midnight, in regimental bars.

In Gornji Vakuf the junior ranks' bar looked like an Oxford Street department store, decorated with Christmas trees and a 4ft blow-up Santa Claus. Beer was free, although officers insisted a two-can-per-man rule was still in force. However, empties outnumbered soldiers in the room by a ratio of at least five to one. Fortunately, the junior ranks did not have to worry about hangovers. Officers not only traditionally serve lunch on Christmas Day — they perform all other duties, such as guarding the base, too.

The junior ranks were, however, woken early when officers surprised them at dawn

with cups of tea laced with rum and whisky, a drink known as "gunfire".

The soldiers are understandably shy about letting on how much they miss their families. But one showed me a poem by the 19th-century poet John Clare, which his girlfriend had sent to him:

*I wish I was where I would be
With love alone to dwell
Was I but her or she but me
Then love would all be well
I wish to send my thoughts
to her*

*As quick as thoughts can fly
But as the wind the water
stirs*

*The mirrors change and
fly.*

Even this could not make him forget their living conditions, he said. The soldiers have put up tents inside a rat-infested gypsum factory but, despite their best efforts, still get gypsum in their bed and boots. A river near by is close to flooding their accommodation after snow began to melt.

Based in Sipovo, in the northern territory to be handed back to Bosnian Serbs, they have to look on as Croats torch their own houses and slaughter animals, not wanting to leave anything behind. Villages have been turned into ghost towns.

Gornji Vakuf, by contrast, has been dubbed "Las Vegas" by the Britons. Every house along the main road has at least one Christmas tree with blinking lights. On Christmas Eve, local Croat soldiers started celebrating by firing thousands of Kalashnikov rounds into the sky, later followed by a large explosion and pistol fire right outside the British barracks.

One British officer said: "It's the same as with dogs. Once one dog starts barking in the neighbourhood, all the others join in."



Gunnery with the 19/5 Battery of the Royal Artillery on Mount Igman, overlooking Sarajevo, enjoying a carol service

Sarajevo worshippers celebrate an end to war

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

IT WAS standing room only at midnight mass in Sarajevo's Old Town cathedral on Christmas Eve, as residents in the predominantly Muslim capital celebrated Christmas and commemorated Bosnia's new peace.

The people in the war-ravaged city had something to celebrate. The state of war was officially lifted only days ago and the 10pm curfew, in place since the war began, was temporarily suspended for the holiday season.

"The war is over, let there be peace," Cardinal Vinko

Puljic told a packed congregation of Catholics, Muslims, Orthodox Serbs and Jews that was more reminiscent of a rock concert than a midnight mass. Outside, a couple of hundred worshippers listened to the service on loudspeakers as bouts of celebratory gunfire echoed in the background. It was the first peaceful Christmas in nearly four years.

"I am hoping it is the first Christmas in peacetime," said Elvina Dzafic, a Muslim who was standing at the cathedral door in a fur coat. "I spent last Christmas with a colleague who is Catholic. This one is much better because it is

calm. There is no shooting and we have everything we need on the table."

Among those outside the cathedral was a trio of old women reminiscent of Bosnia's multi-ethnic heritage that has been so devastated by the war. The women — a Serb, a Croat and a Muslim — sat in headscarves, smoking cigarettes and smiling. "Hope is the most important thing. I would rather go without water during the day or bread, if only we could have peace," said one of them. 63-year-old Jovanka Vilić, a Serb married to a Catholic, her 24-year-old son is still at the front line. She hopes he will return

home soon. "We live in a special country. Everyone celebrates Christmas," said Lejla Hasegic, 19, a resident of Sarajevo. "Jesus Christ was a messenger before Muhammad and Muslims must respect that. That is the nature of Bosnian people."

Across the city, cafés and restaurants were decorated with Christmas lights and the streets were packed with residents celebrating the new peace. On the Vrbanka Bridge, one of the most dangerous spots in Sarajevo, where hundreds of civilians were shot by snipers, French soldiers from the Nato peace force held an evening mass in their bunker.

Journalists walked across the bullet-ravaged bridge where no one once dared to go without an armoured vehicle. Only six months ago, two French peacekeepers were killed in a fight to recapture the bridge from Serb forces who, wearing stolen United Nations uniforms, had seized the position.

Bosnia's President Izetbegovic, a Muslim, in a Christmas message in Sarajevo's daily newspaper, *Oslobodjenje*, said: "I ask God to help all people of goodwill in fortifying the peace, so that our citizens can celebrate future holidays with more hope and joy."

Bethlehem baby symbolises birth of new hope for town's Muslims and Christians

FROM ROSS DUNN IN BETHLEHEM

KHOULA SHEHDAH was rejoicing with thousands of fellow Palestinians in Manger Square, Bethlehem, on Christmas Eve when she felt her baby stir within her and knew the time had come.

She went quickly back to her home before being taken to the city's Holy Family Hospital and at 3.40am yesterday produced a son, Mustafa, the first child to be born in Bethlehem

HOLY LAND

on Christmas Day 1995. Mustafa, weighing a little more than 6lb, came into a world quite different to his mother's. She was born 23 years ago in the same city under Israeli military rule, and lived through the tumultuous times of the intifada, the Palestinian uprising against the occupation. Her son is the first to be born in a Bethlehem free of Israeli soldiers after 28 years. The last troops pulled out of the city three days before Christmas Eve, paving the way for a visit by Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman.

"It will stay as a memory for the child that he was born on this day," his mother said. "It was a big celebration. It was two feasts — Christmas and the freedom of the people."

Although Mustafa will be brought up to remember that he was born on a special day, it will not be as a Christian. He joins a growing population of Muslims who far outnumber the Christians in the



Mustafa Shedah, the first baby born this Christmas at the Bethlehem hospital

biblical birthplace of Jesus. Despite their dwindling numbers, Christians such as Robert Tabash, the director of the Holy Family Hospital and a Bethlehemite, said there was great cause for people of both religions to celebrate Christmas this year. "I think this Christmas was a triple celebration: Christmas, liberation and Arafat's visit," he said, adding that 20,000 Palestinians and tourists who poured through Manger Square were generally well-behaved.

"In 28 years of occupation the Israelis were not able to control the crowd at Christmas. This year, there were ten times as many

people, and not one single incident. That's the pride, that's the future."

He said that the arrival of Palestinian police in the city had made a world of difference. "It was difficult when an occupier with a gun pushed you around," he said. "This time there were policemen saying politely, 'Please move aside'."

There were signs other than the arrival of the Palestinian police that Christmas in the birthplace of Jesus would be different. On Saturday, three military helicopters descended on the shepherds' fields outside Bethlehem, where almost 2,000 years ago the angel was

said to have first told those tending their flocks of the coming of Christ.

The noise of their engines sent sheep and shepherds scurrying for cover and heralded the arrival not of a messiah, but of a new political master: Mr Arafat. No lone star guided pilgrims towards Bethlehem.

There were many stars as the skies over the city cascaded with fireworks throughout Christmas Eve and into the early hours of Christmas morning. Some tourists noted that it was difficult to tell where Christmas decorations ended and Palestinian flags began in Manger Square,

near the Church of the Nativity, built over the spot where tradition says that Jesus was born.

A giant poster of Mr Arafat dominated one of the buildings in the square, while another declared that Jesus was the first Palestinian revolutionary. Mr Arafat was the most talked-about guest at the traditional midnight Mass in the Church of the Nativity.

Michel Sabbah, the Latin patriarch of the Holy Land, emphasised in his sermon that all Palestinians — Christian or Muslim — should now look forward to peace with the Israelis. "The beginning of Palestinian freedom is also a beginning of reconciliation between the two peoples, Palestinian and Israeli," he said. "It's only together that they can reach a just and definitive peace which will also be the source of peace for the whole region."

There did not seem to be a Palestinian present who was troubled by political and religious messages being preached together during Christmas. Hafeem al-Hrub, 17, a student born of Palestinian parents and a Muslim, had travelled from Jordan to join in the celebrations. Asked what meaning there was in Christmas for a Muslim, he replied: "Jesus for us is a prophet of peace."

Widad Andonia, a Palestinian Christian, said: "It's a patriotic day. Last night I forgot Jesus. Arafat is in my heart." Rula Scweli, a student and a Muslim, said: "It's a Bethlehem festival. We are all friends here, Muslims and Christians."

Mother of British rape victim sends gifts to rescuers

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

PEOPLE living in a remote South African village who helped two young Britons after they were attacked and raped have enjoyed a special Christmas, thanks to the mother of one of the women.

The residents sang praises and danced with joy when food and soft drinks were presented to them in their tiny impoverished kraal of Mtambalala, close to the scenic but desolate Wild Coast of the Eastern Cape province.

Two British and a New Zealand woman and a British male medical student were ambushed after losing their way while driving in the area after dark in September. They

effort, said: "The mother of one of the girls said she was not a wealthy woman but wanted to do something for the villagers. She sent us £80 and my company added something."

Four men are in custody and are due to go on trial on February 17 on charges of rape, abduction, armed robbery and attempted murder. A fifth suspect escaped from prison a week after the attack and is still free.

In a Christmas message, President Mandela said that one of his Government's priorities next year would be the fight against crime. Already it has been announced that an extra £550 million is to be spent during the next three years on all aspects of crime prevention.

This represents something of a U-turn by the Government, which until the middle of this year continued to maintain that the country's horrendous crime rate was under control. According to the World Health Organisation, South Africa is the world's most murderous country with an average of 50 per 100,000 people dying each year, 800 per cent higher than the world average of 5.5 people per 100,000.

A 71-year-old woman was battered to death in her home in Pretoria on Christmas Eve. Police allege that her domestic servant and an accomplice murdered her and ransacked the house because they wanted extra money for Christmas.

SOUTH AFRICA

had been told before they setting out not to travel after nightfall in the region, a part of the former Transkei bantustan which remains almost as poverty-stricken and as lawless as it was during the apartheid era.

The two British women were raped repeatedly while the other two, who were forced to strip naked, watched helplessly. After their attackers left, the four huddled under bushes before venturing fearfully at daybreak into Mtambalala not knowing what to expect.

Villagers provided them with clothing and food before sending for help. Hugh Bland, a businessman in Durban who assisted in the rescue

Pheasants bounty for peasants

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

VILLAGERS from a poor region in southwestern Romania were given a welcome present yesterday — hundreds of pheasants and other game birds falling, almost literally, into their pots without having to fire a shot.

The birds had escaped from a local farm when strong winds destroyed a wall. The farm was set up by the Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceausescu, shot six years ago

ROMANIA

and mourned yesterday by diehard Communists who gathered at his grave.

The birds had been fitted with hoods that limited their vision to stop them pecking one another, and when freed they kept flying until they crashed — into houses and trees or one another. One villager said it had "rained pheasants all night long".



Ceausescu: mourned by party hardliners

TAKE IN RUSSIA ROMANIA AND TURKEY ALL IN A WEEK

FOOTBALL
HOME
EURO 96
England
087 533 1333

See the best that Europe has to offer. EURO 96 brings the biggest stars of continental football to your doorstep. Phone the EURO 96 Hotline now or get a ticket application form from any Midland Bank.

Under UEFA rules, residents of Scotland and The Republic of Ireland should apply for tickets through their respective national Football Associations. Tickets will be issued from May 1996. Web site <http://www.euro96.org>



CRICKET 21

Angel bent on destruction of England



SALES 28,29

Where to find the bargains



ARTS 30,31

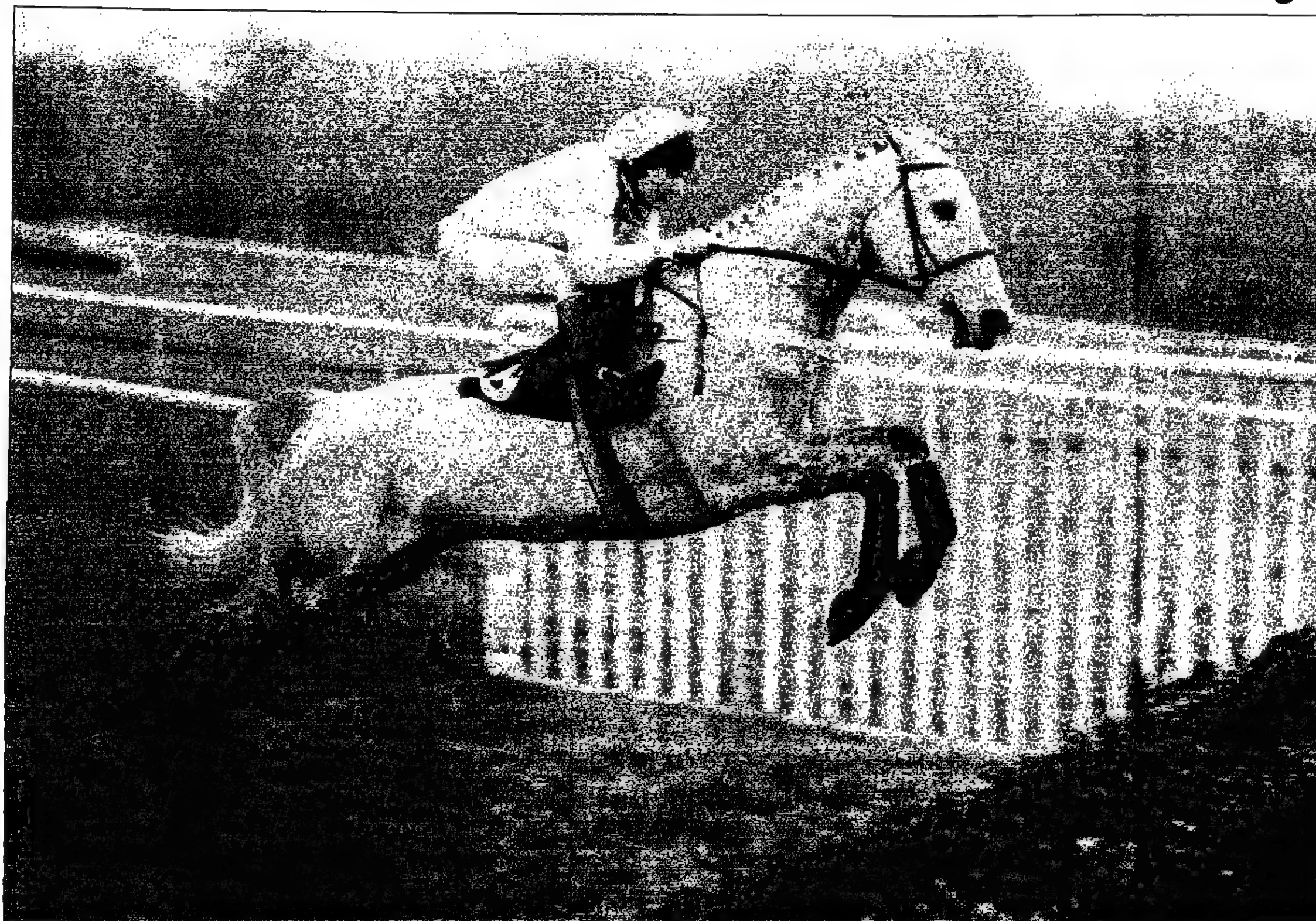
Remembering when Lionel Bart cooked up a turkey

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 34,35

THE TIMES

TUESDAY DECEMBER 26 1995

Racing waits to acclaim Desert Orchid's successor at Kempton Park One hero wanted, One Man ready



One Man, ridden by Mark Dwyer, clears the second last in typically spectacular style on his way to victory at Haydock Park earlier this month. Photograph: Ed Byrne

Weather threat to holiday fixtures

By Our Sports Staff

WEATHER permitting — an essential proviso on England's rain-plagued tour — Paul Adams, 18, will today become the youngest man to play Test cricket for South Africa. A fisherman's son, he will also be the first Coloured to graduate from the country's development scheme.

Like Shane Warne, his wrist-spinning counterpart in Australia, though with greater speed and cultural significance, Adams has become a role model. Magazines are clamouring for different angles on his story and, during the past week at the news-stands, boys of all colour have been seen lingering over pictures of his action and copying it.

As a result of the attention directed towards Adams, England have been able to conduct their preparations in comparative calm. The speculation over their options ended yesterday with confirmation that they will almost certainly play four bowlers and install Jason Gallian in the problem position of No 3.

The weather at home threatens to disrupt the Boxing Day sports programme. Three Scottish football league games, including the premier division match between Falkirk and Aberdeen, were postponed yesterday because of snow and inspections are planned this morning by Heart of Midlothian and Raith Rovers. With snow affecting much of northern Britain, other fixtures are likely to be affected.

Two of the ten race meetings at Ayr and Sedgefield, have been called off, and stewards will inspect at other courses today. Newton Abbot is the only meeting definitely on after passing an inspection yesterday.

Andrew Longmore on the fearless grey that can confirm his leap into the public's sporting affections during the King George VI Chase today

If the flying grey, One Man, romps home in the King George VI Tripleprint Chase at Kempton Park this afternoon, the echoes of his victory will reverberate far beyond the narrow confines of National Hunt racing. Since Desert Orchid retired after a crashing fall in the 1991 King George, racing has been searching for a horse whose appeal tugs the strings of the heart more than the purse, and though the comparison between Desert Orchid and One Man this morning extends no further than the accident of colouring and an outrageous flair for jumping fences, by nightfall, the next Dessie could be much more than a figment of the imagination.

To understand the emotional ties, one has to walk past the statue of Desert Orchid on the concourse at Kempton and reawaken memories of Boxing Days past. Kempton, an untidy but with hidden perils, was Dessie's spiritual home. He loved it there, not just because the course is right-handed, which suited him, but because it was the ideal stage for his extravagant ability. At the tight Kempton oval, he could run free, jump like a stag, show off, knowing that each ripple of his muscly frame, each twitch of his ears, would stay within the magnetic field of his adoring public. Unlike Cheltenham's forbidding acres, Kempton was cosy and intimate, and, like all great performers, Desert Orchid responded to an audience he could feel.

The relationship was born of time as well as place. When Dessie won the King George, which he did a record four times, his victories reflected the exuberance of Christmas, encouraged the belief that, as the new year approached, at least something was right with the world. People unable to tell Nijinsky from a shire horse turned on the television to watch their grey. For, by the time his career was ended after 71 races, 34 wins and £654,413 in prize-money, ownership had long since passed from the grasp of Richard Burridge, a scriptwriter, and his father, Jimmy, into public hands. Though he never ran in the National, Dessie was the nation's horse.

He will be there today, of course, a few days before his seventeenth birthday, leading the parade, behaving for all the world as if beating the bunch

of plodders behind him would be quite beneath his dignity, still tetchy when the others gallop off without him. He will be back in the stables by the time the winner has passed the post: by the time, too, that John Hales, the owner of a toy company and One Man, has emerged from his hiding place to see the final few moments of the race.

Hales, like many owners before him, cannot bear to watch the horse which has already begun to change his life. "I can't enjoy it because I'm absolutely petrified he won't come back," he said. "So I'll be behind the gents toilet, probably, peeing up and down and listening to the commentary. In a sense, this has destroyed my love of racing. I'm not interested in any other races. I don't want to watch any of the other horses and I don't let anyone come near me during

the race." Only when the field has cleared the last fence and One Man is safe will he breathe deeply again.

"There is not a minute of the day when I'm not thinking about One Man," Hales said. "I'm looking at his picture now on my office wall. Every time the phone goes, I jump a mile."

Big-race preview.....24
Race cards.....25

It's a huge responsibility, not because the public are looking for a new star, but because of the fear of losing him. He has already changed our lives."

At his stables in Appleby, near Melton Mowbray, where Jimmy Burridge can see Desert Orchid's box from his kitchen window, those words would strike a chord.

Burridge's hangdog demeanour when walking from the paddock to watch Dessie was once described in the *Sporting Life* as "like a man going to the gallows". "I used to put up a great front," he said. "People would say: 'You must have had tremendous fun with Desert Orchid', but fun was not quite the right word. Watching the video after he had won was fun, watching his mother, Flower Child ... coming in fourth, that was fun. I used to get into an awful panic with Des."

It is easy to see why sane and intelligent men are driven to wear lucky overcoats, in the case of Richard Burridge, or walk only to the right when entering the parade ring, like John Hales. Anything not to offend fate. It is partly superstition, partly a fear of seeming presumptuous, that makes Hales and Gordon

Richards, the bluff trainer of One Man, fend off inevitable comparison with Desert Orchid, though the recent success of his horse has done no harm to business at Golden Bear Products, his Telford-based company, whose colours One Man carries.

"I don't want the similarity to be there, but it is," Hales said. "He's a grey and he jumps in the same spring-heeled style. He's got a wonderful temperament. I can put my two-year-old grandson on him without fear. But you have to remember Dessie earned his fame. The little horse has still got to do it."

Other parallels, more circumstantial than conclusive, link the horses. Both defy unremarkable pedigrees, both suffered terrible falls at Kempton early in their careers and, just as Dessie only erased criticism of his jumping with his first victory in the King George nine years ago, so One Man has yet to convince some sceptics. His impressive victory at Haydock last time, which included a spectacular leap at the second last right out of Dessie's book, eased the doubts, but One Man's most marketable quality is still his colour.

"There are very few very good grey racehorses and the public latch on to them," Lisa Hales, John's daughter, said. "Few will be able to tell which one is Barton Bank or Algan out there, but they will all know One Man just as they all knew which one was Dessie."

Dessie was seven when he won his first King George, the same age as One Man, and One Man's position as favourite today owes something to the Dessie Factor and wishful thinking. Racing desperately wants him to live up to the reputation heaped on him. But even if he begins to do so today, it will be some time before One Man receives the sort of accolade accorded to Desert Orchid by Frankie Dettori after the pair had helped to open the turf track at Wolverhampton recently. Leaping off Desert Orchid, the champion announced ebulliently: "Now that is what I call a real horse." □ An inspection will be held at 6.30 this morning to determine whether racing can go ahead. In the event of a postponement, the card will be held over for 24 hours.



Richard Dunwoody, who rides One Man this afternoon, parades on Desert Orchid before the 1991 King George VI Chase, a race he won four times. It was to be Desert Orchid's last race



THE AUSTIN REED SALE
FOR MEN AND WOMEN STARTS
TOMORROW.

AUSTIN REED

REGENT STREET, LONDON AND BRANCHES COUNTRYWIDE

Ferguson frets over ten-point deficit

Shrewd Keegan turns title tide toward Newcastle

Never give a sucker an even break. Bookmakers, as disgruntled as footballers working at Christmas, have declared Newcastle United virtually uncatchable in the race for the FA Cup Premiership.

The marathon is at half-distance. Newcastle visit Old Trafford tomorrow, and Liverpool, for whom Robbie Fowler is in the form of his young life, play Aston Villa at Villa Park today. The ease with which Fowler finds the net is reminiscent of Jimmy Greaves.

Fowler's brace of goals against Manchester United, followed by three against Arsenal on Saturday — night foot, left foot, head — might be the most festive gift to England. Yet the odds make Newcastle 4-1 on to win the championship for the first time in 69 years, with Manchester United and Liverpool at 9-2.

This ignores the nature of title races in England. Newcastle's lead is handsome, but as Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, warns, teams can suffer from spring nerves. The trap is laid for Newcastle in March. Even a ten-point lead could be vulnerable in a month that starts at home against Manchester United, then takes in trips to Nottingham Forest, Arsenal and Liverpool.

Not even a man as positive as Kevin Keegan will presume the challenge won or lost before that run-in is over. Yet his nature is to go for it. His side is primed to attack Manchester United tomorrow, and should they win in style, the prize could be £30 million in European Cup Champions' League income next season.

Things could hardly have turned out better for Keegan. A year ago, Newcastle manager was cornered by supporters, trying to explain that selling Andy Cole to Manchester United was not tantamount to abdication.

"I respect your right to have a go at me," Keegan said, "but I am manager here. I want to build Newcastle into the biggest club in the country — in the passage of time this will be seen as a significant move in that direction." He agreed that Cole's 68 goals in 84 games was the stuff of legend, yet Keegan sensed that the team needed a different approach, a broader-based dynamism.

Almost a year on, Cole is not with the championship favourites. He has scored four times this season for Manchester United, while Les Ferdinand, his replacement, has scored 18 goals in 19 league games, served by David Ginola's hypnotic craft from the left and Keith Gillespie's pace and delivery from the right.

Gillespie was the £1 million makeweight in the £1 million Cole deal. Keegan's detractors had scoffed when he described Gillespie as the most exciting young player he had seen. Ferguson, obviously thinking that he had the better of the trade, admitted that Gillespie could come back to embarrass him.



Rob Hughes on a match that could confirm a shift in the balance of Premiership power

That might happen tomorrow. Old Trafford's new £28 million North Stand is taking splendid shape, but perhaps the spectre of the Bernabeu, the remodelled Real Madrid stadium that has bankrupted the Spanish aristocrats and removed the club president, is a warning.

Gillespie, the son of a Belfast prison officer, is liberated in Keegan's side. Manchester United, without a victory in five games, had no winger to feed on Eric Cantona's passes, no width to provide for Cole at Elland Road on Christmas Eve.

They did not take defeat well. Ferguson blamed his team's lack of passion at Anfield, and endorsed his players' dissent after a correct penalty award set them up for defeat against Leeds United.

When one examines the line-ups for the vital game between the Uniteds tomorrow, the changes to the equivalent encounter 14 months ago are disproportionate. Then, Manchester United ended Newcastle's proud league run, beating them 2-0. Four of that Manchester United team are gone. Five new Newcastle players — Shaka Hislop, Warren Barton, Ginola, Ferdinand and Gillespie — have arrived. And while Ferguson has been obliged to alternate David May and Paul Parker at centre back, Keegan last weekend experimented with three central defenders, principally because talents like Philippe Albert are desperate to get into the side.

Being Keegan, he relishes rather than fears the possibility that Cole might find his instinctive form against Newcastle. And, being Keegan, he will back his new forward, Ferdinand, to show the power, pace and appetite to at least strike goal for goal.

At this stage in the season, Keegan is a less lonely manager. His chairman, Sir John Hall, made it Newcastle's business to anticipate the legal outcome of the Jean-Marc Bosman case. "We might sign a new player," Keegan enthused on Saturday. "If that helps us change the title. Especially now the foreigner rule has changed." While he acknowledges the United manager for nine years, he has set the standards. Keegan has the comfort of a ten-year contract that encourages long-term plans.

Newcastle's youth development is intended to stop the migration out of Co Durham of talents such as Bryan Robson, who gave his best decade to Manchester United. It is meant to be a school of sport beyond any in Great Britain. Anything? Yes, even Old Trafford's reputation for acquiring the best. Even that is on the turn. In the new year, Manchester United face charges laid by Oldham Athletic and Arsenal, that they "poached" two adolescents — David Brown, from Oldham, and Matthew Wicks, from Arsenal — by offering inducements.

Furthermore, clubs in the North West threaten to refuse to play United at youth level unless the Old Trafford club changes its "aggressive" methods of recruiting other clubs' youngsters.

Past, present and future, Manchester United are being put under pressure. As the club which, more than any other, turned sport into business, they are targets of envy as well as legitimate competition. The 90 minutes tomorrow are an indication of how fierce that competition is becoming.

Embryonic talents like Butt, Paul Scholes, David Beckham and the Neville brothers have not let him down. They have taken the strain that might break seasoned professionals of lesser pedigree, but as Ferguson has acknowledged, youngsters need sheltering, their bodies need time for growth, their minds can be harmed by prolonged exposure to championship tensions. However, one has never been quite sure that all the sales were Ferguson's idea, or convinced that the lack of replacements matched the buying philosophy at Newcastle or Liverpool.

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for handball by Nicky Butt) and, in the next breath, admitted that he had not seen the incident.

There speaks a troubled competitor, whose trust in youth has temporarily backfired, and who possibly feels betrayed by the overnight surrender of former European ruler regarding foreigners.

Ferguson sold Gillespie because, under Uefa regulations, he counted as a foreign national. He let Andrei Kanchelskis, Paul Ince and Mark Hughes go, believing he "had to change the direction of the club".

Keegan: contract comfort

Still unable to rationalise how discipline has cost his cavaliers, Ferguson complained about the penalty (for

Softly-spoken angel bent upon destruction of England

In the hope that the South Africa selectors really are committed to including Paul Adams in their side for the fourth Test match, which starts here in Port Elizabeth today, this will concern the vicissitudes of bowling, as Adams does, out of the back of the hand.

In a sense, it is his advantage that he is only 18. With fingers so supple and nerve still intact, he hardly yet knows how harrowing a method of bowling it can be. It depends, more than any other, on confidence, and confidence and innocence are strung together.

The fact that Adams is Coloured adds dramatically, of course, to his selection. He will fight candles that no white man can reach; and it is a happy coincidence that the legendary bowlers, who first put South African cricket on the map in the early years of this century, were themselves wrist spinners. Even the greatest English batsmen of those days reckoned that Schwarz, Vogler, Faulkner and White, bowl-

ing leg breaks and googlies on matting pitches in South Africa provided the severest test that they had ever faced.

The left-arm wrist spinners, such as Adams, are scarier, more exotic, more erratic members of the same tribe, bowling not the leg break and the googly but the chinaman and the googly. Numbered among them have been some of the most prodigious spinners of the ball, as capable of reducing batsmen to helplessness as of bowling a profusion of long hops and full tosses.

The story of the Australian, L.O.B. Fleetwood-Smith, of this ilk, is a part of cricket lore. When the MCC side of 1932-33 were playing their opening matches in Australia, he was causing such confusion among Australian batsmen, unable to tell the googly from the chinaman, that the whole country was quite agog. It was with some anxiety, therefore, that MCC first encountered him, playing for Victoria at Melbourne, three weeks before the first Test match.



As he awaits eagerly the Test match debut of Paul Adams, John Woodcock reflects on prodigious spinning legends of the past

Walter Hammond went in intent upon putting him to flight, and with an innings of 203, brilliant even by his standards, he duly did so. Six weeks ago, in not dissimilar circumstances, it was Adams, the Fleetwood-Smith of South Africa, who prevailed, his nine wickets for a South African XI at Kimberley leading to England's only defeat of the present tour. Would that Atherton had a Hammond in his side.

When cricket was played less attritionally than it is now, there used to be more of a place for these purveyors of chinamen and googlies. Two of them — George Tribe and Jack Walsh, both expatriate Australians — were among the foremost characters of the county championship after the Second World War. They both

spun the ball like a top. So, for that matter, did Denis Compton when he felt like switching from orthodox left-arm spin to chinamen and googlies. So, in time, did the ever-resourceful Garry Sobers.

In South Africa in 1956-57, Johnny Wardle, a left-armed of wonderful versatility, won the Cape Town Test match for England, bowling out of the back of the hand, a method that he was seldom allowed to use for Yorkshire because it smacked too much of bartering for wickets. When the Australian, David Sincrope, seen fleetingly as a latter-day Fleetwood-Smith, was picked to bamboozle England at Sydney in 1966, he could hardly pitch the ball for worry and was never heard of again. Johnny Martin and Lindsay

Kline were others who appeared for Australia at around that time as eager, occasionally successful left-arm illusionists.

Now comes Adams, an angel bent upon destruction. For the past week, he has been featured on South African television, wide-eyed and softly-spoken, talking about the part that providence has accorded him.

Word has it that he bowls almost exclusively googlies (the left-armed's leg break to the right-handed batsman), and if this is so, it is likely, in the long run, to restrict his effectiveness. For the moment, though, he holds all the cards. All too fresh in the minds of England's batsmen will be the embarrassments that they have suffered in trying to master Shane Warne.

On the eve of the Barbados Test match in 1968, Fred Titmus had four toes sliced off in a boating accident off Sandy Lane. That night, his understudy, a young Pat

Pocock, came to my room in search of a *Wisden* to take to bed with him. He had just been told that he would win his first England cap next day and, with a proper sense of the romantic, he wanted to know what goals to set himself as a Test off spinner.

At the top of the English list he found Jim Laker with 193 wickets at an average of 21. Pocock was to finish his Test career, 18 years later, with 67 wickets at 44 apiece, a record that did him little justice. Being more of an oddity, Adams can break new ground. Nobody has taken even 50 Test wickets bowling the stuff he does, unless, in his more adventurous moments, Wardle did.

Adams could be the best thing to have happened to South African cricket ... or a shooting star. Which it is to be will depend, to start with, on having selectors and a captain who believe in him, and a captain with vision. The coming days will comprise a challenge for Cronje as well as for Adams.



Laker took 193 wickets for England at 21 runs apiece

South Africa may bank on Adams to turn series

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN PORT ELIZABETH

ENGLAND has a cricket team of rare extremes. Their recent habit has been to lose overseas Test series almost before they have acclimatised but, this winter, they have been in South Africa for ten weeks and still, it seems, their tour has not properly begun. The Test series, scoreless after three games, must now find a shape and a resolution within the next 12 days, and the spark to ignite it may well be the compellingly curious spin bowling of Paul Adams.

Weather permitting — an essential caveat on this rain-plagued tour — Adams will today become the youngest man to play Test cricket for South Africa. He will also be

begins this morning on South Africa's original Test-match ground, ended yesterday with confirmation that they will almost certainly play only four bowlers and install Jason Gullian on the tightrope at No 3, has been utterly upstaged by the attention being lavished upon Adams.

Like Shane Warne, his wrist-spinning counterpart in Australia, though with still more dramatic speed and greater cultural significance, Adams has become a role model. Magazines are suddenly clamouring for different angles on his story and, this past week at the news-stands, it has been possible to see boys of all colour lingering over pictures of his action and unself-consciously copying it.

The best indicator of his phenomenal rise is that he still habitually plays street cricket with his pals back home in Grassy Park. Life, for Adams, has altered, however. His family has had to change its telephone number and his elder brother, Gary, had to take time off from his television repair business to drive Paul to interviews and meetings. He is coping, but the way in which he twiddles his thumbs, fiddles with his shirt and blinks silently at questions he has no wish to answer, confirm that, unlike Warne, he is no natural personality.

His bowling is natural enough, if bizarrely nonconformist, and, having taken nine wickets against England for South Africa a last month, he does not lack confidence. "I have bowled them out once, so I can do it again," he said. Then, when asked if he ever swore at batsmen, he disarmingly replied: "No, I just laugh at them."

There has not been a great deal of laughing in and around the England camp this week. While the ever-swelling band of supporters counts the cost of the dire weather, there are those in the playing party, such as Devon Malcolm, Angus Fraser, John Crawley and Mark Ramprakash, having to accept that their tours are effectively over.

the first Coloured to graduate from the development scheme pioneered by Ali Bacher and, almost certainly, the first man to bowl at this level while balanced like a stork with his head pointing at the ground behind him.

His action has been likened to a frog and an octopus, and he goes by the nickname of "Gogga", a particularly irritating insect. He is 18, unworried and inarticulate, and it is this endearing innocence, this bewilderment at the company that he is suddenly being asked to keep, that makes this fisherman's son from the unglamorous end of Cape Town the most intriguing story of a tour that badly needs a new hero.

For once, England have been able to conduct their preparations in comparative calm. The speculation over their options for a game that



Adams, who hopes to torment England in the fourth Test match that starts today, practises in the nets yesterday

This may not be the case for Mike Watkinson. His impact thus far has been negligible, but he can hold out hope of featuring in the series. He will play today, however, only if the pitch alters dramatically overnight, in which unlikely event Robin Smith would replace Gullian at No 3. The desire to play two spin bowlers, shared by Raymond Illingworth, the manager, and his captain, Michael Atherton, has been overcome by a surface that does not appear to support the idea.

"It is patchy," Illingworth reported, "but the grassiest areas are on a spinner's length. The bare patches, which will encourage uneven bounce as the game goes on, will suit the seamers." Illingworth's view was endorsed by the former South Africa cap-

tain, Kepler Wessels, whose home ground this is. "My experience," Wessels said, "is that, although the spinners get some help at St George's, it is the pace bowlers who get most of the wickets."

Three years ago, in their inaugural home series after the end of isolation, Wessels led South Africa to victory over India here. It was the only positive result of a four-game series, and Allan Donald enforced it with 12 wickets. The suspicion now is that the quick bowlers will again profit from low bounce, at least so long as they maintain their accuracy.

Peter Martin, an important figure in this context, came through a test on his shoulder strain yesterday, but it is Dominic Cork, wicketless in Durban, who should be En-

gland's most effective bowler. Atherton will want to bat first, and he will want greater stability from the batsmen around him than has been forthcoming so far. "We need people to play big innings, not 30s and 40s," Illingworth said. "They all know what is riding on it now. We've been here 2½ months but it's all going to be settled by the last ten days of cricket."

But within this ancient ground, indeed around this entire country, England are bit-part players today. The romance belongs to Adams, and his skills are such that Dave Richardson, the South Africa wicketkeeper, is hoping to break a notable duck. "He's very excited," the team manager, Alan Jordaan, said. "He thinks he might get his first Test stumping."

Gullian out to solve problem position

FROM SIMON WILDE IN PORT ELIZABETH

IF, AS seems likely, England play six batsmen in the fourth Test match today, Jason Gullian, an opener by experience and a grafter by temperament, will go in first wicket down for the first time for as long as he can remember. It is something of a gamble, but it might just work: if it does, it could be the solution to a very old problem.

Since David Gower relinquished the England No 3 role at about the time that his first spell of captaincy ended, in 1980, there has been no stability and precious few runs from a position that is essential to the success of a Test side.

Whether Gullian or Smith bats there today, it will constitute the 57th change to the England No 3 position in 101 Test matches. In that time, 18 specialist batsmen have been tried but none has survived longer than five matches before being dropped, injured or moved elsewhere in the order. Only Gower and Ganting (two each), Athey, Stewart, Gooch and Hick (one each) have scored hundreds there.

All seven of the batsmen originally chosen for this tour are among those to have drunk from the poisoned chalice. For various reasons, they are no longer considered suitable candidates. Atherton and Stewart have established themselves as openers; Thorpe, Hick and Smith as lower middle-order stroke-makers. Crawley is injured, while, with his failure to survive the new ball, Ramprakash has forfeited the chance of further opportunities, at least for now.

The problem inherent in the position is that it demands so much of its incumbent, who might be required to face the second ball of the innings or

not go in until the score is well into three figures. The key is that the player must possess the skills of an opener, and this is the thinking to which England have come round.

Raymond Illingworth, the manager, has apparently started harking back to the outstanding trio of openers that helped him to regain the Ashes in 1970-71: Boycott, Luckhurst and Edrich. Time and again, they gave Illingworth the trenchant start he needed. Atherton, Stewart and Gullian might now be able to do something similar.

Australia's success in recent years has owed much to having had a former opening batsman at No 3 in David Boon, who has scored 12 Test centuries in that position. West Indies have been similarly well served, first by Richardson, then by Lara. New Zealand have had Andrew Jones. South Africa have had Cronje. India have possessed a string of reliable No 3s, while Sri Lanka have had Gurusinha and Zimbabwe have had Alistair Campbell.

Only Pakistan have struggled more than England. Before Ijaz Ahmed scored 157 at Sydney last month, a series of 15 specialist batsmen had failed to make a century at No 3 for Pakistan in almost seven years and 45 Test matches.

It must be hoped that Gullian can now provide Atherton with the upper-order "stodge" that he is looking for. Gullian is, reportedly, an adaptable soul, and has modelled himself on one of England's more successful No 3s in Ganting, who is an old family friend. In these ways as well, then, his credentials are good.

ICC exonerates Sri Lanka

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday cleared Sri Lanka of charges of ball-tampering during the first Test against Australia at Perth earlier this month. ICC also criticised the umpires involved and expressed its "sincere regrets" to the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka and the players.

The decision ends a dispute that had threatened to overshadow the second Test, that starts today in Melbourne.

"It's really good that this has been done," Arjuna Ranatunga, the Sri Lanka captain, said. "We were very keen to clear our name. Some of the things we heard made it very uncomfortable for us, but we knew that we might get cleared and it's really good news."

The umpires in the first Test, Peter Parker (Australia) and Khizar Hayat (Pakistan), told Ranatunga at the time that the ball had "clearly been

altered" by a member or members of his team during Australia's first innings in Perth, and Graham Dowling, the ICC's match referee, found the Sri Lankans guilty of ball-tampering.

The decision by the umpires not to replace the ball was criticised in the ICC statement. The laws of the game state that, if a ball is judged to have been altered, it should be changed. There was also no video evidence to back up a charge of tampering.

"The decision not to change the ball at that time was clearly incorrect," the statement, signed by David Richards, ICC's chief executive said. "In the interests of fairness and as the ball was not replaced, ICC cannot determine that the condition of the ball had been altered and as such, the Sri Lankan team therefore stands exonerated."

In Colombo, the Sri Lanka board said that its teams

always played by the rules. "The board also emphasises that it believes a feature of Sri Lanka cricket has been to play the game in accordance with the spirit as well as the letter of the laws of cricket," it said in a statement. The Sri Lankans all along maintained that the hard ground at Perth, not one of their players, was responsible for damaging the ball.

Ranatunga missed net practice yesterday, raising fears that a finger injury on his right hand, sustained attempting a catch in a World Series Cup match last Thursday, might not have recovered. Australia's problems have eased: Shane Warne, Steve Waugh and Paul Reiffel are all fit to play.

Australia won in Perth by an innings and 36 runs in four days; victory in Melbourne would give them their fourth series victory this calendar year, after wins over England, West Indies and Pakistan.

West Indies aim for return of pace attack

WEST INDIES are expected to call on at least two of the three frontline members of their fast-bowling battery for the one-day match against Queensland in Brisbane today. Curtly Ambrose, Courtney Walsh and Ian Bishop were rested from the drawn three-day game against an Australian XI during the weekend, but two are likely to return for the day-night match with the Sheffield Shield champions.

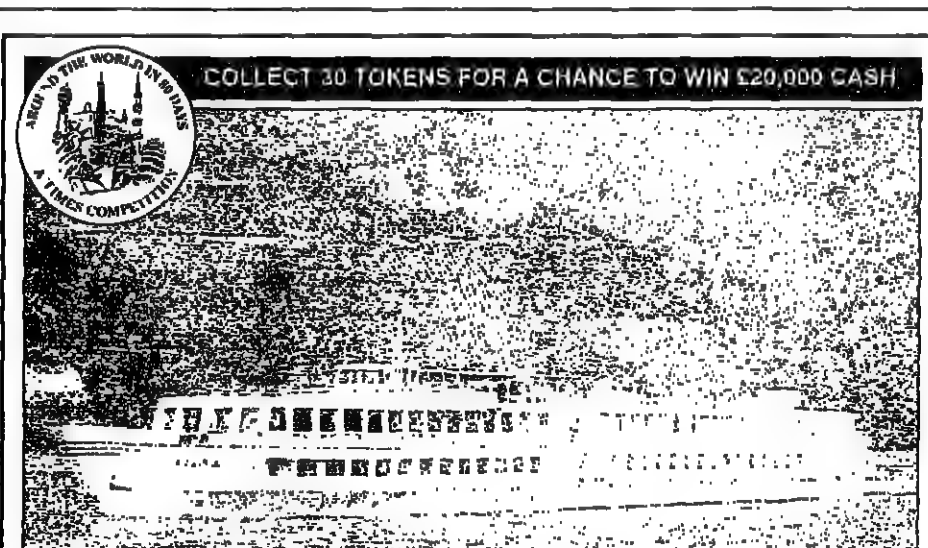
"There's a possibility you might see one or two back," Richie Richardson, the captain, said yesterday. "The three that didn't play have some minor injuries — but we don't have any more than 15 players here."

The pressure has continued to mount on the embattled Richardson after the touring side suffered another upper-order batting collapse — despite producing a better overall performance — in the

drawn match. Richardson scored just 11 before playing on to a ball from Paul Reiffel as West Indies slumped to 197 for six before a late rally. Richardson, who batted at No 6 in the West Indies' 24-run loss to Australia in Melbourne last Tuesday, may opt to stay down the order for the match against Queensland.

The Australian XI made 323 for seven declared in their first innings while the second day was washed out. West Indies made 325 in their first innings and the home side were 17 without loss in its second innings when play ended.

New Zealand beat Pakistan by 32 runs in the final one-day international at Eden Park, Auckland, on Saturday to square the series 2-2. The New Zealanders produced their best performance, with Craig Spearman making 48 and Adam Parore 42 for a total of 244 for eight.



Win a cruise to the heart of Europe

The Times and The Sunday Times have been offering readers the chance to win one of 80 holidays for two, plus 10 per cent discounts, to a range of destinations throughout the world.

This is the last few days of our epic journey and today's prize is an eight-day cruise for two worth £120. It starts with a flight to Amsterdam then your ship, the MS Austria, sails from Rotterdam, the largest port in Europe. Cruising from the lowlands of Holland you pass Dordrecht, once the wealthiest commercial town in the Netherlands and the port of Nijmegen, before reaching Germany and the cosmopolitan cities of Düsseldorf and Cologne with its famous Gothic cathedral. Then you cruise to the Alsace capital, Strasbourg, when you will have time to explore the fascinating city before your leisurely return downstream cruise to Rotterdam.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Around
the World
in 80 Days
£20,000
TOKEN 78

DEPARTURES:
Weekly from April 30 to Oct 8, 1996. The price for this cruise, with our exclusive 10% discount, is from £715.50 per person, down from £795, including return travel.

HOW TO WIN

To win today's holiday answer the question below and phone our competition hotline: 0800 40 50 34 which is open until midnight tonight. The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

1. Which is the biggest port in Europe?
Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times.



KD River Cruises offers readers 10% discount on today's holiday and all the cruises featured this week. The price covers return travel, twinshare accommodation for seven nights and sumptuous food. For a brochure call:

01372 742033

TOMORROW: WIN A CRUISE ON THE MOSELLE

Wigan set to exhibit capacity for tradition

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

ONLY two dates in the pre-Super League rugby league calendar are virtually guaranteed to be sold out. Spring time at Wembley and the Challenge Cup final is likely to be a movable feast by 1997, while the Boxing Day derby programme today will be savoured as the last meaningful one.

Talk of Christmas challenge matches next year and four-way tournaments is aimed at holding on to slender threads of tradition, but, coming four months after the new September finish to a summer season, would there seriously be any interest? Certainly not from players plucked from summer back into winter.

Shaun Edwards, the Wigan captain, said: "If they do want me to play on Boxing Day next year, they'll have to fly me from Barbados. I don't plan on being around." His sentiments are widely shared, although there are twinges of regret at the passing today of another tradition.

The centenary season has proved, as was feared, an awkward and unwieldy bridgehead between the game's first 100 years and the start of the Super League in March. Crowds have dipped, some matches have been hopelessly uncompetitive, and one of the few customs to survive the Super League cull has been the maintenance of Wigan's dominance. Yet, in spite of it all, Central Park will be packed by close on 30,000 for the bun fight between Wigan and St Helens.

A rivalry between two former Lancashire coal towns less than ten miles apart is the parochialism on which rugby league thrives, for all its worldly ambitions. The holiday fixture is as near a guarantee as there is to excellence and entertainment, as watchers of the memorable fare last year would testify.

Va'aiga Tuigamala intervened decisively in a see-saw encounter at Knowsley Road, with a typically blockbusting try to tip the scales in favour of Wigan, whose last championship defeat at home to St Helens was eight years ago. Phil Veivers scored two tries that day. With injury and suspension accounting for half the St Helens side, Veivers, 31, the club's longest-serving player, is set to start a match for the first time this season.

The Australian utility player still recounts with glee the 32-22 Boxing Day victory in 1987. "A derby against Wigan makes the hairs on the back of the neck stand on end, but that was definitely my most memorable," he said. "We were 26-6 down at half-time but came back. I was awarded an eight-point try when Graeme West [now the Wigan coach] cleaned me out as I went over."

In a young side, missing Bobbie Goulding and Paul Newlove, Veivers is one of the few St Helens players steered in the derby match furnace. Even with victory, it would probably only marginally disturb Wigan's procession — albeit falteringly of late — towards a seventh successive Stones championship.

The next league meeting between the sides will be in the Super League on Good Friday, April 5, when Leeds and Castleford, who kick off at Headingley today at the absurdly early hour of 11.30am, also next encounter one another.

Dean Bell's is one of the voices welcoming change. "It's been a great tradition for everyone to go out on the day after Christmas and see a derby match," the Leeds coach said, "but we must move on."

RESULTS: Stones Championship: First division: Huddersfield 10 Hull 23, Bat. Out Challenge Cup: Second round replay: Epsom 13 Wootton 6, Yorkshire Electricity Cup: Final: Thornhill 6 Salford 11

Nash's growing potential knows no boundaries

Simon Wilde meets
a precocious talent
who, at 17, has been
likened to Alan Knott

Micky Stewart is not often given to effusive praise, but in this case he made an exception. "When I first saw him, he came across as an exciting, vibrant and urgent sort of cricketer, an Alan Knott type," he said. "Everything was quick and sharp, both keeping and batting. From his earliest days, he was a player with a lot of initiative who would come out on top. He has the confidence and 'arrogance' a successful sportsman needs."

Stewart, the National Cricket Association's director of coaching and former England

SPORT
IN SCHOOLS

manager, spoke as though the player that he was talking about was a seasoned professional, while, in fact, David Nash is still at school and does not turn 18 until next month.

In many ways, though, Nash is a seasoned professional. He has played for every England age-group side, spent two summers with Middlesex's second XI and tomorrow departs with the England under-19 team on a six-week tour of Zimbabwe. The tour will slice into his penultimate term at Malvern School, which he attends on a sports scholarship and where he is preparing to sit three A levels next summer.

If this makes Nash sound precocious, he is. Last summer, he was about to appear for the England under-17 team when a call came to join the under-19s in the first international against South Africa at Taunton. Undaunted, he kept wicket ably and, from No.8, played unbeaten innings of 56 and 25.



Nash has been capped for England at every age-group level and played in September for the Middlesex first XI. Photograph: John Potter

Retained for the next two matches, he scored 69 at Worcester and 98 not out at Headingley to finish with an eye-catching total of 248 runs to add to ten dismissals. England won the series 2-0. "I would have been disappointed not to be chosen for Zimbabwe," he said, understatedly.

Although Nash may still have some growing to do, he is unlikely ever to be a physically imposing figure around the stumps. Stewart likens him to a whippet, but the comparison with Knott may be the most enduring one and may not be entirely coincidental. Nash has been helped by Knott on his numerous visits to the National Sports Centre at Lillieshall in recent years.

Nash's enthusiasm for sport — he is also a talented footballer — was nurtured by his family: a grandfather was a professional footballer with West Ham United and won England schoolboy caps, his father a useful club cricketer. His early cricket was played in his native Surrey, at Sunbury Manor School, and the Sunbury club. Richard Johnson, the Middlesex seam bowler, was a friend and inspiration at both.

Nash moved to Malvern two years ago, when he was the first to benefit from the school's newly-instituted sports scholarship. If his A level grades are good, he hopes to go to a sports-friendly university; if they are not, he

intends to get on with his cricket career, almost certainly with Middlesex.

"Middlesex have taken a very enlightened attitude with David," Andy Murtagh, Malvern's master-in-charge of cricket, said. "Joe Hardstaff [the Middlesex secretary] has kept in regular touch with us and is anxious to know about David's all-round welfare. He wants him to have a back-up to his cricket."

Nash was slightly apprehensive about changing schools, but is enjoying life and his cricket has flourished under the guidance of two former county professionals in Murtagh and Roger Tolchard, the school's professional. He has fitted well into an unfamiliar social scene, partly, one suspects, through an ability to charm birds off trees.

Nash's first innings for Malvern witnessed one of his rare failures. He was leg-before to his first ball during a winter visit to South Africa, when the umpire was Peter Walker, the former England all-rounder, whose son is also at Malvern.

Nash made swift amends by helping the school remain unbeaten last season. In September, Nash made his debut for Middlesex's first XI, in an AXA Equity & Law league match at Taunton. "I was all right in the dressing-room, when everyone was wishing me luck, and I was all right going down the steps," he said, "but when I got out

into the middle and looked around and all I could see was famous faces — Ramprakash, Gatting, Fraser — I suddenly felt terribly sick. It soon passed."

How long will it be before Nash is a famous face? For what it is worth, Murtagh also sees more than a passing resemblance with Knott. "He has the same sort of mannerisms," he said. "Before every ball, he has to touch the buckles on his pads four times and tap the ground with his bat six times. I've told him he'll have to cut that out at first-class level. They won't wait that long. When he walks down to our house, I can see him from my window. He touches every tree on the way down."

Test your knowledge with the Jumbo Sports Crossword



THE TIMES presents the traditional festive challenge of the Jumbo Sports Crossword to test your knowledge over the holiday period — with a Methuselah of Moët & Chandon champagne to the winner and six runners-up to receive copies of the sports book of the year.

The sender of the first correct entry drawn will receive £250

worth of champagne while *A Good Walk Spoiled*, an account of life on the United States professional golf tour by John Feinstein, a leading American sports writer, goes to the next six correct entries that are drawn.

Charting the fortunes of the renowned players and the lesser lights over a turbulent 12 months, *A Good Walk Spoiled* won the William Hill sports book of the year award and is published by Little, Brown at £17.99.

To win, send your completed crossword, with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to:

Jumbo Sports Crossword,
Sports Department,
The Times,
1 Pennington Street,
London, E1 9XN

to arrive by Friday, January 12, 1996. The Sports Editor's decision is final. Usual rules apply. No correspondence.



ACROSS

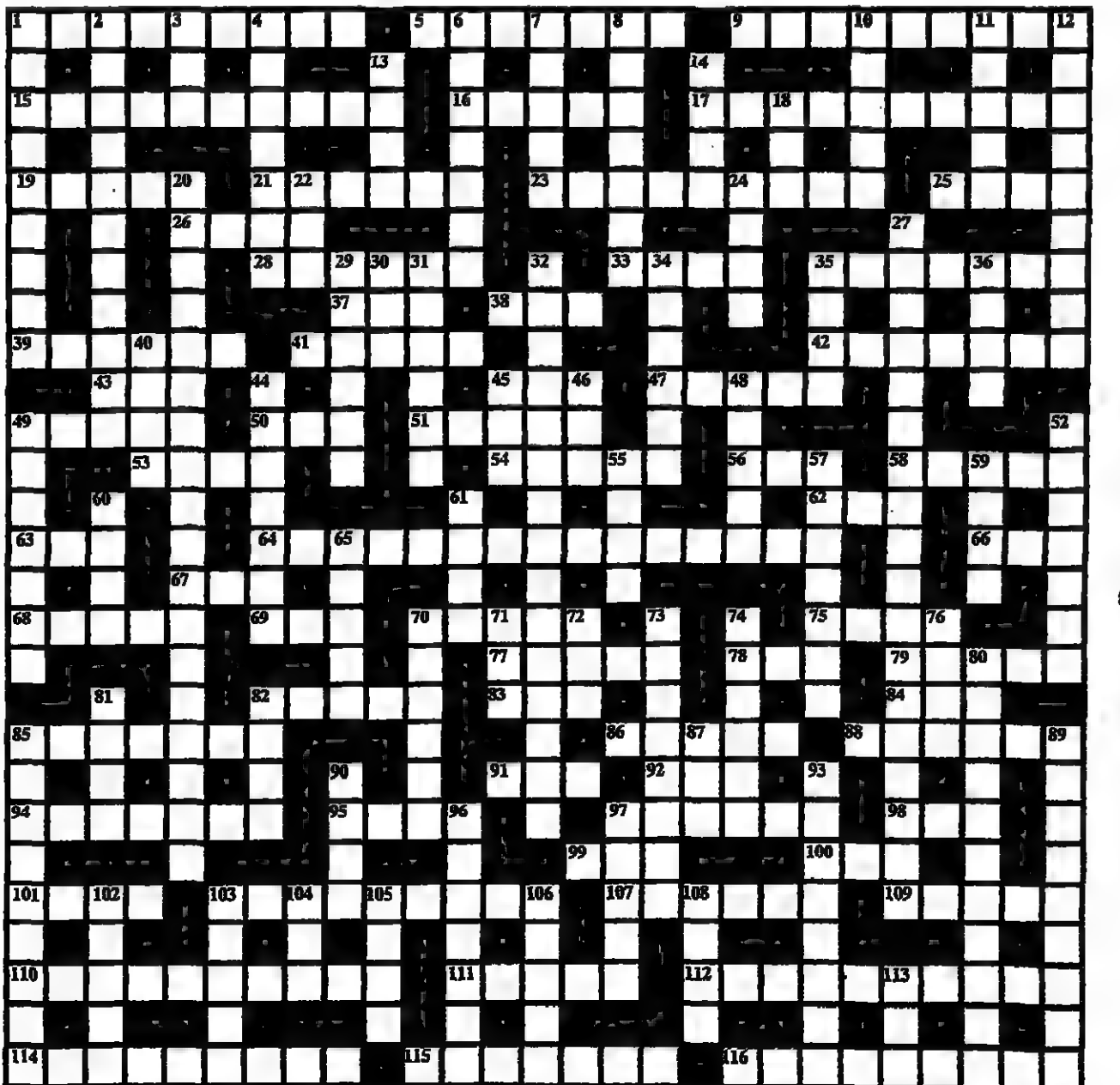
1. A craftsman often at Bruno's side (9)
5. Has time been misspent playing this? (7)
9. A sport 'ee' will watch (9)
15. He had a twin career with Surrey and England (4-6)
16. Prepare to drive (3-2)
17. In place on the pitch (10)
19. Indicate where to field (5)
21. Honeyghan's world title weight (6)
23. An active chap (9)
25. Stuart Pearce packs one of the hardest (4)
26. The game for which to leave home (4)
28. A leading colour on tour (6)
32. A nervous shot to the slips (4)
35. The dive to make the judges gulp? (7)
37. As held by Redgrave, for instance (3)
38. It goes to international heads (5)
39. Begin to feel relaxed at the wicket (6)
41. Hosts of the 1964 summer Olympics (5)
42. Art, even for this senior competitor (7)
43. Sebastian was anything but limited (3)
45. Cyril, who played for Orient, Ipswich and Wales (3)
47. Did he steal the 1968 FA Cup winning goal? (5)
49. The remains of a trophy? (5)
50. Yep, Jesse was quick on the draw for Wolves (3)
51. It is at the very roots of lawn tennis (5)
53. Seaman makes it look easy (4)
54. Thread a spell-binding way through the defence? (5)
56. Camera was an ambulant one (3)
58. New arrangement of Tosca, of course! (5)
62. In common with Wootnam and Rush (3)
63. Make contact (3)
64. The boxer who strikes out from defence (7-8)
66. Position of the golf ball (3)
67. Ian, who defended for Arsenal and Manchester United (3)

68. Tennis, the real sport of kings (5)
69. Get short with the man in charge (3)
70. They are used when wrestlers get to grips (5)
75. What even the fittest competitors start to do (4)
77. Is Sam a former England opener? (5)
78. A drawn cup match, perhaps (3)
79. Tailenders are not embarrassed to have it (1-4)
82. Stain brings material change of boxer's shorts (5)
83. He is unlikely to be desperate at judo (3)
84. Weight in with a century (3)
85. The pool for underground sports activity (7)
86. The Eagle who always landed too soon (5)
88. Something to watch on the course (6)
91. Great serve from a wild card? (3)
92. Harvey, Shackleton or Hutton (3)
94. Gaffer's speech? (7)
95. They are given before the off (4)
97. Juan was never in a fog behind the wheel (6)
98. Take a single long shot with this iron (3)
99. Sharp target for golfers? (3)
100. Yashin, who was the Man in Black (3)
101. Boarders ride it (4)
103. A hunter wants it in writing (9)



Six runners-up will win *A Good Walk Spoiled*

107. Repair the pluck or the racetrack (6)
 109. Common reaction to disputed line calls (5)
 110. Put your foot down, Schumacher-style (10)
 111. Nines for Ireland, the former motor racing ace (5)
 112. The top scorer in the 1982 World Cup finals (5-9)
 114. Custer, at the crease with Atherton? (4-5)
 115. Prim Sue will lead you to these officials (7)
 116. Aussie who doubled on court for South Africa (3-6)
- DOWN**
1. They have their titles (9)
 2. What the angler will hope to do (4-2-5)
 3. Made an initial impact in the 1956 Grand National (3)
 4. Head of the River scullers (7)
 6. When the javelin does not go (2-5)
 7. They are counted towards a new ball (5)
 8. What a sprinter will do from the blocks (7)
 10. Tony, who has saved at Watford and Maine Road (5)
 11. The round in which Robinson stopped Turpin (5)
 12. Trainer's instruction to jockey (4-2-3)
 13. Brothers Jean and Maurice were difficult to trap (4)
 14. From which a kick is often taken (4)
 18. Torrance or Sneed, perhaps (3)
 20. What a forceful defender does (7-2-4-5)
 22. It needs to be kept on the ball (3)
 24. As planned at Wimbledon, for instance (4)
 27. She often had Pam Shriver at her side (4-11)
 29. Peter, an old hat-trick hero at Headingley (6)
 30. One of honour is the best (3)
 31. Does Graham Taylor not like this? (6)
 32. What a final winning shot can bring (4-3-3-5)
 34. A big punch can inflict it (6)
 35. Get familiar with Ballesteros (4)
 36. Bob, who was known as "Mr Burnley" (4)
 40. Gymnasts are often on them (4)
 44. John, who was three times world snooker champion (7)
 45. Ex-Old Trafford idol in flawless form (3)
 46. Hartford, the hole-in-the-heart footballer (3)
 48. One for athletics to follow? (5)
 49. A well targeted sport (7)
 52. A cat-like exercise (7)
 55. Managers dread the one of confidence (4)
 57. Spare it for the Pittsburgh baseball team (7)
 59. Glen changes for United (4)
 60. What the horse with stamina will do (4)
 61. Or he is worshipped in sport (4)
 65. Not in good condition (5)
 70. Jack Charlton has often done it away from football (6)
 71. Windsor, the Derby winner (3)
 72. The ice hockey bin (3)
 73. What a swimmer and a driver did for direction (4-4)
 74. Racehorses, collectively (6)
 76. Robe for an old handicap race (4)
 80. Anger is a sad way to identify a tennis star (5-6)
 81. It is often shown in a tackle (4)
 82. Do they harden in tennis? (4)
 85. What the passing man does (5-4)
 87. Not quite the end for Millwall's old ground (3)
 89. The 1953 Grand National winner (5-4)
 90. Henry, who was the steeplechase king (4)
 93. You can belong to one or go round with it (4-4)
 96. Must aid for the sports venue (7)
 97. A competitor does it at Bisley (5)
 102. Cares for the events (5)
 103. The percentage man of sport (5)
 104. Interval for a cup in cricket (5)
 105. Norman or Rusedski (4)
 106. There's a change in her for Leonie (5)
 108. Some from racing experts make you want to spit (4)
 113. He is making his mark on the European golf circuit (3)



COMPILED BY NORMAN GILLER

NAME:

ADDRESS:

DAYTIME TELEPHONE:

27 07 11 07

IN BRIEF

Scott puts
Leopards
in position
to pounce

KENNY SCOTT, the 6ft 9in forward who has previously turned his back on the England basketball team, announced his arrival at the Leopards by notching 19 points in their 92-80 victory over Manchester Giants, and helping to push them into joint-second place in the Budweiser League, four points behind London Towers.

Released by Towers after an operation in the summer, Scott put his recovery to the test with a fine display in the later stages as Giants raised their game. Birmingham Bulls were also on the receiving end, slumping 90-83 to Worthing Bears.

Dickson defeat

Tennis: Simon Dickson, of Stockport, failed to win the Orange Bowl for boys aged 14 and under — the world's biggest tournament for the age group — in Miami at the weekend. Dickson, claimed to be Great Britain's best prospect in a decade, was beaten 6-2, 6-1 by Olivier Rochus, of Belgium, the No 1 seed, in the final.

Ill wind

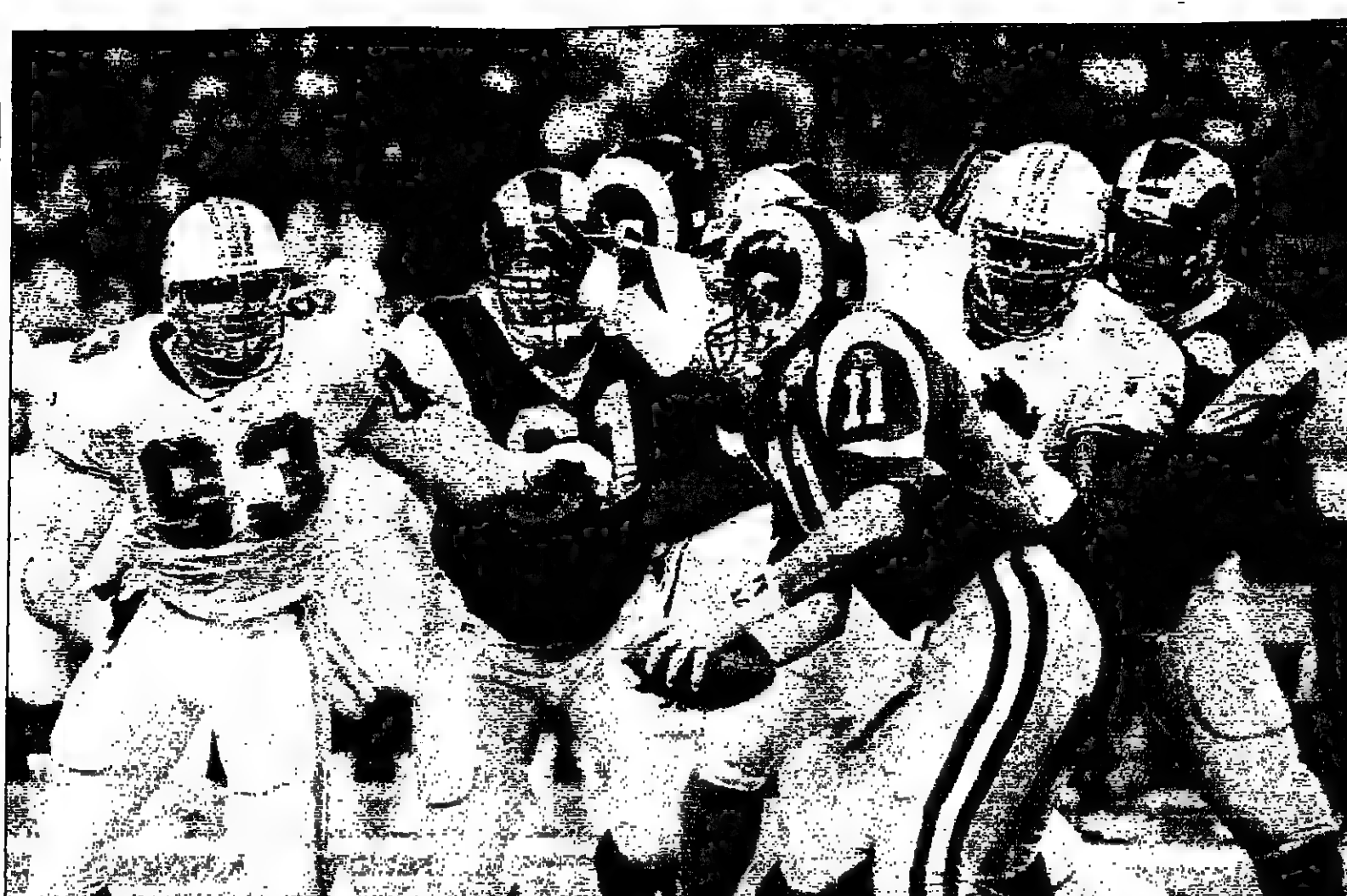
Yachting: Hopes for a time that would break the Sydney to Hobart racing classic record have faded with forecasts of light winds. The 630-mile test, one of the world's toughest ocean races, gets underway today with 100 boats starting in Sydney Harbour. Sayonara, a 78ft Maxi, had been favourite to break the 20-year-old record of two days, 14hr 36min 56sec.

Tuur de force

Boxing: Regilio Tuur, of Holland, retained his World Boxing Organisation junior lightweight title with a points decision over his Italian challenger, Giorgio Campanella. It was the Dutchman's fourth successful defence.

Two for one

Golf: John Legarra and Tom Gabelman recorded holes-in-one on consecutive shots at the 10th hole at Dayton Valley Country Club in Nevada.



Mark Rypien, quarterback of the defeated St Louis Rams, is harried by Miami Dolphins players as he attempts to clear the ball

Falcons swoop on play-off slot

BY STUART JONES

THE Atlanta Falcons, though unable to prevent Jerry Rice from seizing personal glory, captured the principle honours during the closing weekend of the regular National Football League (NFL) season. Their improbable victory over San Francisco 49ers, the reigning champions, earned them a place in the play-offs.

They profited from the defeats inflicted elsewhere on their rivals, Minnesota Vikings and Chicago Bears, and from the accuracy of their Danish kicker and their reserve quarterback, Bobby Hebert, brought in for the injured Jeff George before the interval, threw the decisive touchdown pass with 95 seconds left.

Morten Andersen was no less responsible for securing the win by the narrowest margin, 28-27. He set an NFL record of converting eight field goals in excess of 50 yards in a season and his second, from 59 yards, was the fourth longest recorded.

In defeat, though, Rice en-

hanced his reputation as the finest wide receiver to have played the game. With another 153 yards, he raised his total for the season to 1,848, obliterating the record set by Charley Hennigan 34 years ago. His individual achievements in Atlanta were in vain, though, as the Falcons extended their season for the first

time since 1991. On Sunday, they visit Green Bay Packers. They beat Pittsburgh Steelers to clinch the central division of the National conference. The feat, in doubt until the final play in Wisconsin, represented a personal triumph for Brett Favre, a quarterback comparatively unheralded four months ago.

He has already equalled the number of touchdowns passes thrown in a season by a couple of renowned figures, George Blanda and a certain Y.A. Tittle. With another two on Sunday to lift his total to 38, he stands alone behind Dan Marino, who was credited with 48 in 1984 and 46 two years later.

Marino had broken three consecutive records this season but the two touchdowns passes he threw in Missouri were perhaps the most significant. They built the foundation of a comprehensive 41-22 victory over St Louis Rams which gave the erratic Miami Dolphins a play-off place.

They will go on Saturday to Buffalo Bills, who finished with an undistinguished home defeat. The only representative to gain from the 28-17 loss to Houston Oilers was Thurman Thomas, their running back. He joined Eric Dickerson and Barry Sanders in rushing for 1,000 yards for seven successive seasons.

Detroit Lions completed a spectacular finale, overwhelming Tampa Bay Bucca-

neers 37-10 to maintain an unbeaten sequence of seven games. Herman Moore, in catching his last pass, set an NFL record of 123 receptions for the season and will doubtless be the prime target again in Philadelphia on Sunday.

The Eagles yielded the eastern division title of the National conference to the Dallas Cowboys when they went down 20-14 in Chicago, but the Cowboys, as they entered the concluding fixture against Arizona Cardinals last night, still carried a huge incentive. A win would give them home advantage throughout the play-offs, a dispensation that would otherwise be granted to the 49ers.

San Diego Chargers, with 21 unanswered points in the second half against New York Giants, and Indianapolis Colts, with a late field goal, were the others to qualify for the play-offs. They meet each other on Sunday.

Play-off fixtures: Saturday: Buffalo Bills v Miami Dolphins; Philadelphia Eagles v Detroit Lions; Tampa Bay Buccaneers v Arizona Cardinals.

TABLES AND RESULTS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE									
	W	L	T	P	PF	PA			
Buffalo	10	6	0	0	335	336			
Indianapolis	9	7	0	0	353	331			
Tampa Bay	9	7	0	0	368	332			
New England	9	7	0	0	376	334			
NY Jets	11	5	0	0	388	333			
Pittsburgh	13	3	0	0	389	307			
Chicago	7	9	0	0	438	374			
Cleveland	5	11	0	0	448	304			
Cincinnati	5	11	0	0	312	356			
Jacksonville	4	12	0	0	250	375			
Kansas City	13	3	0	0	313	241			
San Diego	9	7	0	0	353	321			
Seattle	8	8	0	0	300	353			
Denver	9	7	0	0	300	345			
Oakland	8	8	0	0	300	348			

NATIONAL CONFERENCE									
	W	L	T	P	PF	PA			
Dallas	11	4	0	0	333	278			
Philadelphia	10	5	0	0	315	318			
Washington	9	6	0	0	375	326			
NY Giants	9	6	0	0	311	300			
Arizona	4	11	0	0	267	385			

POOLS FORECAST

Saturday December 30

Coupon No. 10000, 100000

1st Premier

2nd Premier

3rd Premier

4th Premier

5th Premier

6th Premier

7th Premier

8th Premier

9th Premier

10th Premier

11th Premier

12th Premier

13th Premier

14th Premier

15th Premier

16th Premier

17th Premier

18th Premier

19th Premier

20th Premier

21st Premier

22nd Premier

23rd Premier

24th Premier

25th Premier

26th Premier

27th Premier

28th Premier

29th Premier

30th Premier

31st Premier

32nd Premier

33rd Premier

34th Premier

35th Premier

36th Premier

37th Premier

38th Premier

39th Premier

40th Premier

41st Premier

42nd Premier

43rd Premier

CRICKET

Auckland (South) v. New Zealand

Pakistan v. Sri Lanka

Scotland v. Ireland

England v. Australia

India v. West Indies

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka v. India

India v. New Zealand

New Zealand v. Sri Lanka

FOOTBALL

League Championship

Premier Division

First Division

Second Division

Third Division

Fourth Division

Fifth Division

Sixth Division

Seventh Division

Eighth Division

Ninth Division

Tenth Division

Eleventh Division

Twelfth Division

Thirteenth Division

Fourteenth Division

Fifteenth Division

Sixteenth Division

Seventeenth Division

Eighteenth Division

Nineteenth Division

Twentieth Division

Twenty-first Division

Twenty-second Division

Twenty-third Division

Twenty-fourth Division

Twenty-fifth Division

Twenty-sixth Division

Twenty-seventh Division

Twenty-eighth Division

Twenty-ninth Division

Thirtieth Division

Thirty-first Division

Thirty-second Division

Thirty-third Division

Thirty-fourth Division

Thirty-fifth Division

Thirty-sixth Division

Thirty-seventh Division

Thirty-eighth Division

Thirty-ninth Division

Fortieth Division

Forty-first Division

Forty-second Division

FOR THE RECORD

BOWLING: Mervyn 6-0-20-1, Patel 4-0-20-2

2-0-0, Cams 7-0-38-1, Larsen 9-0-40-2

Tweed 7-0-37-1, Asie 8-0-42-3

Bates record New Zealand 5 Pakistan 2

SOUTH AFRICA: South Africa 32-0-20-7

10-0-20-7, 11-0-20-7, 12-0-20-7, 13-0-20-7

14-0-20-7, 15-0-20-7, 16-0-20-7, 17-0-20-7

18-0-20-7, 19-0-20-7, 20-0-20-7, 21-0-20-7

22-0-20-7, 23-0-20-7, 24-0-20-7, 25-0-20-7

26-0-20-7, 27-0-20-7, 28-0-20-7, 29-0-20-7

30-0-20-7, 31-0-20-7, 32-0-20-7, 33-0-20-7

34-0-20-7, 35-0-20-7, 36-0-20-7, 37-0-20-7

38-0-20-7, 39-0-20-7, 40-0-20-7, 41-0-20-7

42-0-20-7, 43-0-20-7, 44-0-20-7, 45-0-20-7

46-0-20-7, 47-0-20-7, 48-0-20-7, 49-0-20-7

50-0-20-7, 51-0-20-7, 52-0-20-7, 53-0-20-7

54-0-20-7, 55-0-20-7, 56-0-20-7, 57-0-20-7

58-0-20-7, 59-0-20-7, 60-0-20-7, 61-0-20-7

62-0-20-7, 63-0-20-7, 64-0-20-7, 65-0-20-7

66-0-20-7, 67-0-20-7, 68-0-20-7, 69-0-20-7

70-0-20-7, 71-0-20-7, 72-0-20-7, 73-0-20-7

74-0-20-7, 75-0-20-7, 76-0-20-7, 77-0-20-7

78-0-20-7, 79-0-20-7, 80-0-20-7, 81-0-20-7

82-0-20-7, 83-0-20-7, 84-0-20-7, 85-0-20-7

86-0-20-7, 87-0-20-7, 88-0-20-7, 89-0-20-7

90-0-20-7, 91-0-20-7, 92-0-20-7, 93-0-20-7

94-0-20-7, 95-0-20-7, 96-0-20-7, 97-0-20-7

98-0-20-7, 99-0-20-7, 100-0-20-7, 101-0-20-7

102-0-20-7, 103-0-20-7, 104-0-20-7, 105-0-20-7

106-0-20-7, 107-0-20-7, 108-0-20-7, 109-0-20-7

110-0-20-7, 111-0-20-7, 112-0-20-7, 113-0-20-7

114-0-20-7, 115-0-20-7, 116-0-20-7, 117-0-20-7

118-0-20-7, 119-0-20-7, 120-0-20-7, 121-0-20-7

122-0-20-7, 123-0-20-7, 124-0-20-7, 125-0-20-7

126-0-20-7, 127-0-20-7, 128-0-20-7, 129-0-20-7

130-0-20-7, 131-0-20-7, 132-0-20-7, 133-0-20-7

134-0-20-7, 135-0-20-7, 136-0-20-7, 137-0-20-7

138-0-20-7, 139-0-20-7, 140-0-20-7, 141-0-20-7

142-0-20-7, 143-0-20-7, 144-0-20-7, 145-0-20-7

146-0-20-7, 147-0-20-7, 148-0-20-7, 149-0-20-7

150-0-20-7, 151-0-20-7, 152-0-20-7, 153-0-20-7

154-0-20-7, 155-0-20-7, 156-0-20-7, 157-0-20-7

158-0-20-7, 159-0-20-7, 160-0-20-7, 161-0-20-7

162-0-20-7, 163-0-20-7, 164-0-20-7, 165-0-20-7

LACROSSE

SHEPHERD'S FRIENDLY SOCIETY

LACROSSE: Premier division: Chelsea 16

Stockport 4, Bournemouth 12, 16

Stockport 4, Bournemouth 12, 16

Stockport 4, Bournemouth 12, 16

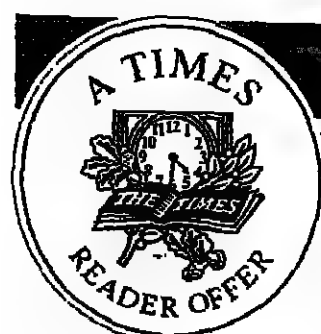
Stockport 4, Bournemouth 12, 16

Stockport 4, Bournemouth 12, 16

Stockport 4, Bournemouth 12, 16

Stockport 4, Bournemouth 12, 16

Stockport

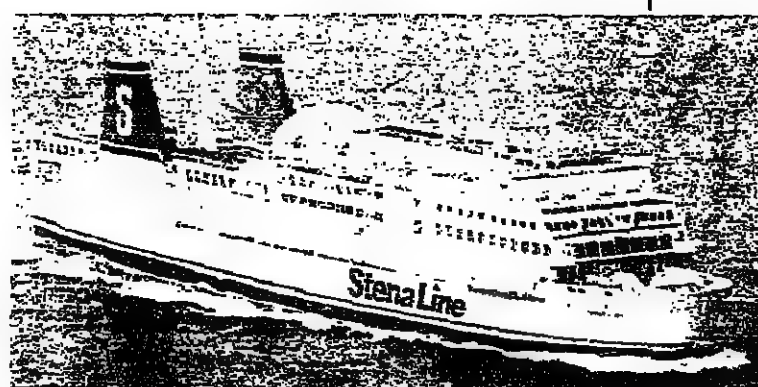


ENJOY A THREE-DAY SHORT BREAK FROM JUST £39 FOR UP TO FIVE PEOPLE AND A CAR

Stena Line

Bargain fares from one of the top names in ferry travel

The Times, in association with Stena Line, formerly Stena Sealink, is offering unbeatable rates for motorists on short breaks to France. We have arranged special three-day, five-day and ten-day deals on three of Stena Line's cross-Channel routes: Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe and Southampton-Cherbourg.



Cherbourg. Prices start at £39 for a car and up to five passengers. Foot passengers can travel for only £5 return. For a longer break you can take advantage of a ten-day return from only £69 for a car and two people.

The offer gives you a choice of up to 25 sailings a day in winter from Dover to Calais to provide the greatest flexibility for your journey plans.

For an extra £15, you can take the high-speed Stena Lynx catamaran from Dover, crossing to Calais in just 45 minutes (from February 13, 1996) or the Stena Lynx from Newhaven to Dieppe crossing in just two hours and 15 minutes (starting February 29, 1996).

Excellent on-board shopping facilities are available with the Duty Free shops on all Stena Line vessels offering great bargains on scent, spirits, tobacco and gifts.

THREE-DAY RETURNS

Car and up to five people from £39

Routes: Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe, Southampton-Cherbourg

It may be winter but you will find plenty to do on a three-day break to France: drive to Reims for a Champagne-country break; cross to Cherbourg for a tour through Normandy's glorious scenery; visit the pretty Belgian town of Antwerp, just hours from Calais; or enjoy an excellent-value weekend in the romantic city of Paris — the possibilities are endless. Special rates have been negotiated for overnight stays at Campanile hotels, see panel right.

By Superferry — car and up to 5 people (no driver)	£39
Additional passengers/Foot passengers	£5
Saturday departure (from Dover/Newhaven)	£10 supplement
Friday departure (from Southampton)	£10 supplement
By Stena Lynx (from Dover/Newhaven)	£15 supplement
Foot passengers by Stena Lynx	£10

Cabin or rest/chair accommodation compulsory on Southampton-Cherbourg overnight crossings: 2 berth inside cabin £25, reclining seat £5



FIVE-DAY RETURNS

Car and up to five people from £49

Routes: Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe, Southampton-Cherbourg



This five-day return gives you up to 120 hours away. A leisurely tour of Normandy from Dieppe, allows you to visit the historic port of Honfleur, the golf courses of Deauville, or the famous tapestries at Bayeux. From Cherbourg you could head for Brittany and visit the abbey with its soaring spires perched on the tiny islet town of Mont St Michel, or continue along the coast to St Malo, Dinard or the typical Breton town of Dinan with its cobbled streets, castle and museum.

By Superferry — car and up to 5 people (no driver)	£49
Additional passengers/Foot passengers	£5
Saturday departure (from Dover/Newhaven)	£10 supplement
Friday departure (from Southampton)	£10 supplement
By Stena Lynx (from Dover/Newhaven)	£15 supplement
Foot passengers by Stena Lynx	£10

Cabin or rest/chair accommodation compulsory on Southampton-Cherbourg overnight crossings: 2 berth inside cabin £25, reclining seat £5

TEN-DAY RETURNS

Car and two people from £69

Routes: Dover-Calais, Newhaven-Dieppe, Southampton-Cherbourg

If you are looking for a last-minute deal to get to the ski slopes, Stena Line's ten-day return trip is the perfect opportunity. At just £69 for a car and two people, it offers exceptional value for money and, with additional passengers paying just £5 each, you can go with friends and save even more.

Ski-drive holidays are growing in popularity. Take the car and you can ski at a number of resorts or combine a week on the slopes with a few days exploring some of the sights en route.

By Superferry car plus 2 people (no driver)	£69
Additional passengers	£5
Saturday departure (from Dover/Newhaven)	£15 supplement
Friday departure (from Southampton)	£15 supplement
By Stena Lynx (from Dover/Newhaven)	£15 supplement
Foot passengers	£10
Foot passengers by Stena Lynx	£15

Cabin or rest/chair accommodation compulsory on Southampton-Cherbourg overnight crossings: 2 berth inside cabin £25, reclining seat £5



10% OFF DUTY FREE FOR NIGHT-TIME TRAVELLERS

Passengers travelling on Stena Line's night-time services can save 10% on all Duty Free goods from whisky and liqueurs to scent, cameras and other gift items.

This offer is available from January 4, 1996 to anyone travelling by Superferry on the Dover-Calais or Newhaven-Dieppe routes between 21.00 and 07.00 local time, or on the 22.00 sailing from Southampton-Cherbourg (excluding Fridays from Southampton) up to March 31, 1996.

120150



Ski-Link — the complete package for ski-drivers

Your Ski-Link ticket includes: return ferry crossing on any Stena Line route to France; comprehensive travel and insurance cover comprising AA Five Star Roadside Assistance Cover and Home and Overseas Personal Insurance with Winter Sports Cover; and a Ski-Drive book

with 250 pages of route maps and information on more than 40 resorts including fold-out piste maps.

Enclosed with your tickets is a leaflet entitling you to up to 20% off at Blacks, Britain's largest retailer of both ski hardware and clothing.

This special offer represents a saving of at least 10% on normal Ski-Link prices when you collect three tokens from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

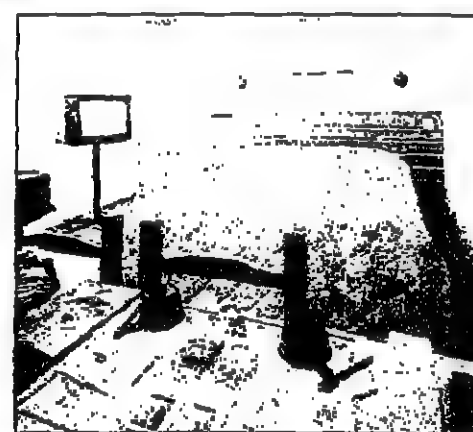
Up to 10 days	£125	£27	£15
Up to 17 days	£135	£32	£16

Longer stays at special Times prices are available on request

OVERNIGHT STAYS

The Times and Stena Line have joined forces with the Campanile hotel group to offer you excellent-value overnight accommodation in quality two-star hotels, conveniently located close to motorways and major routes in France.

Whether you are on a short, three-day tour of northern France, on your way to the ski slopes, or travelling through France with our ten-day offer, you can enjoy an overnight break in the following locations: Northern France: Roissy, near Paris; Lens; Chelles (Paris); St. Denis Quai de St. Ouen (Paris) and Lille Sud. The route South: Chalons-sur-Marne; Dijon Nord; Macon Sud; Aix-les-Bains and Lyon-Tassin. Prices per room are: £28 per night, Friday to Sunday, £38 per night, Monday to Thursday. Breakfast is payable at the hotels at 32FF-34FF. The overnight stays must be booked through the reservations hotline at the same time as your ferry crossings. Early booking is recommended. Standard terms and conditions of Stena Line Holidays Ltd apply. ABTA no V5465.



HOW TO BOOK

Make your booking by calling the Stena Line Reservations credit card hotline on 0990 757575 and collect three of the eight tokens appearing in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* until Monday January 1. Your first Times token appears on the coupon below. Lines are open today and on Sundays between 10am and 4pm, and 9am and 5.30pm Monday to Saturday from tomorrow, December 27. When paying by credit card you must book at least 24 hours in advance of your chosen travel date and for credit card bookings made less than 10 days in advance you must hand in your coupon, with three tokens attached, at the port to collect your pre-paid tickets. For credit card bookings made more than ten days in advance and for payment by cheque, where you must book through the hotline ten days in advance of your travel date, return your completed coupon with three tokens attached to: *The Times Winter Breaks Offer*, Stena Line, PO Box 147, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8BZ. Alternatively, take your coupon and three tokens to your local travel agent or branch of the AA and ask them to make your booking for you. You can travel from December 29, 1995 with this offer.

All bookings must be made by February 15, 1996.

Terms and Conditions

1. Standard booking conditions and conditions of Stena Line apply to all bookings, see the current edition of *Fast Ferry and Ferry Guide* for details. 2. The offer is subject to availability of space within *The Times* promotional allocation. 3. Once a booking reference has been given, a fee of £10 will be chargeable for any amendment. 4. All travel must be completed by April 3, 1996 and must be booked by February 15, 1996. 5. The offer is not valid in conjunction with any other offer or discount. 6. Brochure prices will apply for any additional requirements. 7. The offer is valid for outward departure from the UK. A valid passport is required for travel to France. Non EU passport holders must check EU requirements. 8. Cabins or rest/chairs are obligatory at a supplement on Southampton-Cherbourg overnight sailings. 9. The sailing times on the ticket must be adhered to or the full fare will be charged. 10. Vehicles permitted on this offer, up to a maximum six metres in length, are: car, motorised caravan and minibus.

THE TIMES

Stena Line WINTER BREAKS

Valid for travel from December 29, 1995 to April 3, 1996

Name.....

Booking Reference.....

Date of outward travel..... Sailing time.....

☐ 3-day return ☐ 5-day return ☐ 10-day return ☐ Ski-Link

Subject to the terms and conditions in *The Sunday Times* and *The Times* December 24 & 26, 1995

THE TIMES

Stena Line

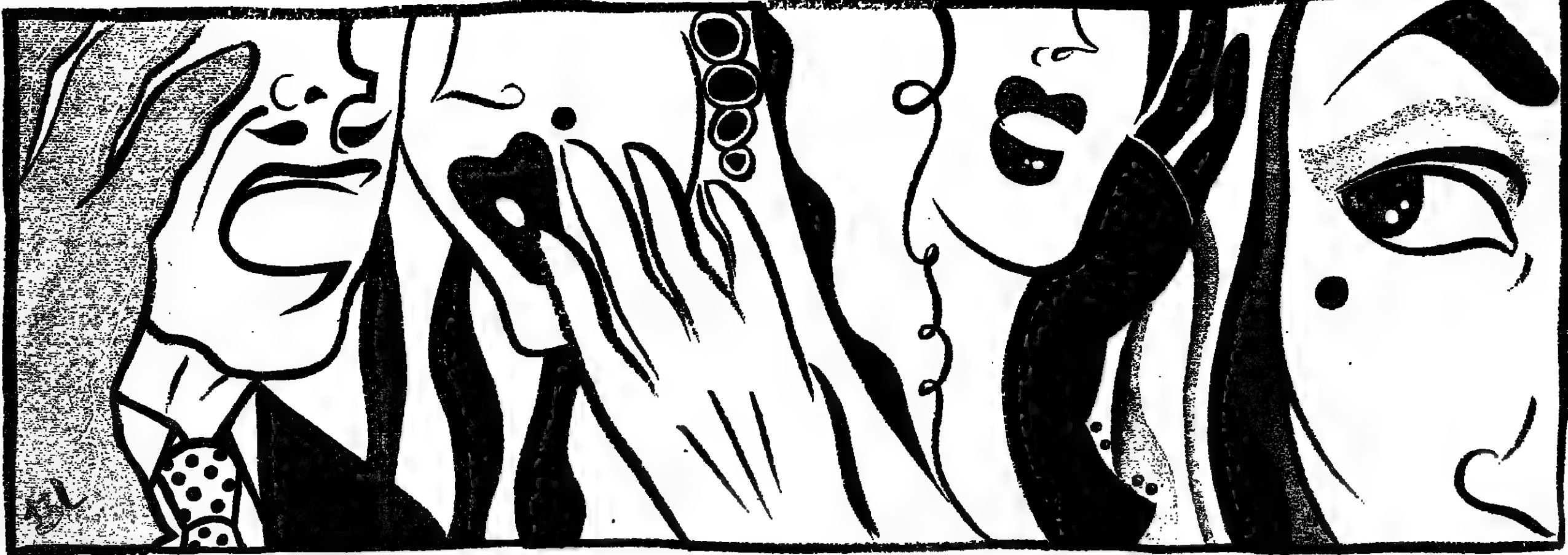
TOKEN 1

ATTACH
TOKEN
HERE

ATTACH
TOKEN
HERE

CALL THE STENA LINE RESERVATIONS HOTLINE TODAY ON 0990 757575

Tomorrow sees the start of most sales in stores nationwide. Karen Kay offers a guide to smart bargains and savings...



LONDON STORES

Bentalls
Broadway Centre, Ealing,
London W5 (0181-567 3040).
From Dec 28.
Preview evening for account
customers on December 27, 6-9pm. See nationwide listing.

Fenwick
New Bond Street W1
(0171-629 4161). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off items
throughout the store. Nicole
Farhi satin jackets were £109,
now £99 (matching skirts
were £79, now £55). Fenn
Wright and Manson reduced
by up to 30 per cent.

Fortnum & Mason
181 Piccadilly, W1 (0171-
734 8040). From Dec 28.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
lines throughout the store.
Missoni, Georges Rech, Jas-
per Conran, Tomasz Star-
zewski and Maxmara
reduced by one third.

Harrods
87 Brompton Road,
Knightsbridge SW1 (0171-730
1234). From Jan 3.
Up to 55 per cent off many
items throughout the store,
with an extra 10 per cent off
account customers' purchases
made on Jan 6. Sale items
include 50 per cent off sterling

silver cutlery in seven pat-
terns: 50 per cent off many
pianos: Nicole Farhi navy
full-length women's double-
breasted coat was £399, now
£239; men's Jasper Conran
suits were £395, now £295.

Harvey Nichols
109-125 Knightsbridge,
London SW1 (0171-235 5000).
From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off many
items plus 10 per cent
discount for current account
card holders during first four
days.

House of Fraser
Army & Navy, Victoria
Street SW1 (0171-834 1234).
Barkers, Kensington
High Street, W8 (0171-437
5432); Dickens & Jones,
Regent Street W1 (0171-734
7070); D.H. Evans,
Oxford Street, W1 (0171-629

8800); D.H. Evans, High
Road, Wood Green, N22
(0181-899 3111). From Dec
27. Scotland: from Boxing
Day.
Up to 50 per cent off items
throughout the stores. At
least one third off women's
wear by Kenzo Jeans, Kenzo
Jungle, Moschino, Monix,
French Connection, Amaya
Arzuaga and Gaultier Jeans;
Drifter Goose Down Duet
duvets half recommended re-
tail price; some Le Creuset
cookware discounted by 40
per cent; 20 per cent off
ready-made curtains.

John Lewis
Oxford Street W1 (0171-
629 7711); Brent Cross
Shopping Centre (0181-
202 6535); Peter Jones,
Sloane Square SW1 (0171-
730 3434). From Dec 28 at
Oxford Street, Peter
Jones, & Brent Cross; from
Dec 29 at Kingston
branch.
Discounts on discontinued
stock, seconds and slight
imperfections, eg. Jonelle Egyp-
tian cotton deep-pile towels
(seconds), bath sheets £13.

Liberty
214-220 Regent Street W1;
and branches nationwide
(0171-734 1234). From Dec
27 for two-three weeks.
Up to 50 per cent discount off
items throughout the store.
Gilt frame mirrors were £225,
sale price £112; antique chin-
ese blue and white ginger
vase lampbases were £149,
sale price £74.50; Persian
Bidjar Kelim rug was £450,
sale price £225; English
Eccentrics devore velvet

scarves were £159, sale price
£109; Liberty print silk fabric
by the metre was £14.95, sale
price £10.

Selfridges
Oxford Street W1 (0171-
629 1234). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off items
throughout the store. Max-
mara women's suit was £305,
sale price £152; Betty Jackson
jackets were £315, sale price
£157; men's Hugo Boss,
Nicole Farhi, YSL, CK, by
Calvin Klein and Victor Vic-
toria all reduced by up to 50
per cent; men's Paul Smith
reduced by up to 30 per cent;
Giorgio Armani men's coats
reduced by up to 30 per cent;
childrenswear by Ralph
Lauren, Levi and Naf Naf
reduced by up to 30 per cent;
Patricia Underwood hats
were £305, sale price £152;
Admiral 225i American Side
by Side fridge/freezer was
£1,889, sale price £1,499; Mey-
ers 4ft 6in Hadleigh Divan
set was £599, sale price £299.

House of Fraser
Stores nationwide include
Arnots, Binns, David Evans,
Dickens & Jones, Dingles,
Fraser's, Howells, Jollies,
Kendalls, Rackhams and
Schofield (inquiries 0171-963
2000). From Dec 27.
Scotland: from Boxing Day.
See London listings for
details.

John Lewis
23 department stores
nationwide. From Dec 28 at
High Wycombe,
Bainbridge, Cheadle,
Edinburgh and Aberdeen
(inquiries 0171-629 7711). All
others start Dec 29.
See London listing for reduc-
tions.

STORES NATIONWIDE

Bentalls
High Street, Bracknell,
Berks (01344-24678); Wood
Street, Kingston upon
Thames, southwest London
(0181-546 1001); Lakeside
Shopping Centre, West
Thurrock, Essex (01708
860077); The Angel Centre,
Tonbridge, Kent (01732
771177); 10-21 South Street,
Worthing, West Sussex
(0190 3318011). Lakeside
store, from Dec 27; all
other stores, from Dec 28.
(Preview for account
customers at Kingston,
Ealing, Worthing,
Bracknell and Tonbridge is
Dec 27, 6-9pm).
Up to 50 per cent off most
seasonal lines.

Debenhams
334-348 Oxford Street.

Browns
23-27 South Molton
Street, London W1 and 6c
Sloane Street, London
SW1 (inquiries 0171-491
7833). From Jan 4.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items. Donna Karan dark
camel, fitted jacket was
£1,180, sale price £600 (match-
ing skirt was £425, sale price
£230).

Burberry
18-22 Haymarket, London
SW1; 165 Regent Street,
London W1 (inquiries
0171-930 3343). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items. Women's trench coats
were £495, now £285; men's
flyfront raincoats were £395,
now £235; umbrellas were
£52.50, now £32.50.

Caroline Charles
56-57 Beauchamp Place,
London SW3; 170 New Bond
Street, London W1; 9 St
John's Wood High Street,
London NW8; 25 High
Street, Old Amersham,
Buckinghamshire
(inquiries 0171-225 3197).
From Jan 2.
30-50 per cent reductions on
autumn/winter collection.
Wool crepe dresses and suits
discounted by 30 per cent.

Cashmere By Design
44 Neal Street, Covent
Garden, London WC2 (0171-
340 3653). From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off, eg. two-
ply cashmere sleeveless
crewnecks were £89, now £69.

Catherine Walker
Chelsea Design
Company, 65 Sydney Street,
London SW3 (0171-352
4636). From Jan 10.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
day and eveningwear.

Chanel
26 Old Bond Street,
London, W1 and 31 Sloane
Street, London SW1
(inquiries 0171-493 5040).
From Jan 6-13.
30 per cent off autumn/winter
ready-to-wear collection.

Christian Lacroix
8a Sloane Street, London
SW1 (0171-235 2400) and
29 Old Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-409 1994).
Sale now on.
30 per cent off main line, 40
per cent off Bazar.

Ally Capellino
95 Wardour Street,
London W1 (0171-494 0768);
general inquiries 0171-488
9777. From Dec 29-late Jan.
30-50 per cent off all clothing.

Amanda Wakeley
80 Fulham Road, London
SW3 (0171-584 4009).
From Jan 5.
40-80 per cent off au-
tumn/winter collections.

Anna Molinari
Blumarine
11-12 Old Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-493 4872).
Sale now on.
Up to 25 per cent off selected
merchandise.

APC
124 Draycott Avenue SW3
(0171-225 0364). From Dec 27.
30 per cent off designer
womenswear, further dis-
counts as sale progresses.

Aquascutum
100 Regent Street,
London W1 (0800 286922).
From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
lines.

Austin Reed
103-113 Regent Street,
London W1 and branches
(inquiries 0171-734 6789).
From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off (plus 5
per cent discount for account
customers) on Dec 27, 28 and
29, eg. men's pure wool suits
were £279, now £199; men's
pure cotton shirts were
£37.50, now £17.95; women's
winter coats were £279, now
£139.

Ballantyne Cashmere
53a New Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-493 4718).
From Jan 4.
25 per cent off selected items.

Bally
Fifty-nine shops and
concessions nationwide
(inquiries 0800 834865).
From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off autumn/
winter lines.

Bertie Shoes
London: 36 South Molton
Street, W1; 115 King's Road,
SW3; 25 Long Acre,
Covent Garden, WC2 and
40 Oxford Street, W1

Hoopers
The Promenade,
Cheltenham (01242 527505);

North Street, Chichester
(01243 533103); The Strand,
Torquay (01803 212754);
Mount Pleasant Road,
Tunbridge Wells (01892
530222); Hoopers For Men,
The Great Hall,
Tunbridge Wells (01892
529223); and Alderley
Road, Wilmslow (01625
525381). For further
information freecall 0800
318216. From Dec 27.
Selected items reduced by up
to 50 per cent.

House of Fraser
Stores nationwide include
Arnots, Binns, David Evans,
Dickens & Jones, Dingles,
Fraser's, Howells, Jollies,
Kendalls, Rackhams and
Schofield (inquiries 0171-963
2000). From Dec 27.
Scotland: from Boxing Day.
See London listings for
details.

John Lewis
23 department stores
nationwide. From Dec 28 at
High Wycombe,
Bainbridge, Cheadle,
Edinburgh and Aberdeen
(inquiries 0171-629 7711). All
others start Dec 29.
See London listing for reduc-
tions.

Browns
23-27 South Molton
Street, London W1 and 6c
Sloane Street, London
SW1 (inquiries 0171-491
7833). From Jan 4.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items. Donna Karan dark
camel, fitted jacket was
£1,180, sale price £600 (match-
ing skirt was £425, sale price
£230).

Burberry
18-22 Haymarket, London
SW1; 165 Regent Street,
London W1 (inquiries
0171-930 3343). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items. Women's trench coats
were £495, now £285; men's
flyfront raincoats were £395,
now £235; umbrellas were
£52.50, now £32.50.

Caroline Charles
56-57 Beauchamp Place,
London SW3; 170 New Bond
Street, London W1; 9 St
John's Wood High Street,
London NW8; 25 High
Street, Old Amersham,
Buckinghamshire
(inquiries 0171-225 3197).
From Jan 2.
30-50 per cent reductions on
autumn/winter collection.
Wool crepe dresses and suits
discounted by 30 per cent.

Cashmere By Design
44 Neal Street, Covent
Garden, London WC2 (0171-
340 3653). From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off, eg. two-
ply cashmere sleeveless
crewnecks were £89, now £69.

Catherine Walker
Chelsea Design
Company, 65 Sydney Street,
London SW3 (0171-352
4636). From Jan 10.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
day and eveningwear.

Chanel
26 Old Bond Street,
London, W1 and 31 Sloane
Street, London SW1
(inquiries 0171-493 5040).
From Jan 6-13.
30 per cent off autumn/winter
ready-to-wear collection.

Christian Lacroix
8a Sloane Street, London
SW1 (0171-235 2400) and
29 Old Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-409 1994).
Sale now on.
30 per cent off main line, 40
per cent off Bazar.

Ally Capellino
95 Wardour Street,
London W1 (0171-494 0768);
general inquiries 0171-488
9777. From Dec 29-late Jan.
30-50 per cent off all clothing.

Amanda Wakeley
80 Fulham Road, London
SW3 (0171-584 4009).
From Jan 5.
40-80 per cent off au-
tumn/winter collections.

Anna Molinari
Blumarine
11-12 Old Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-493 4872).
Sale now on.
Up to 25 per cent off selected
merchandise.

APC
124 Draycott Avenue SW3
(0171-225 0364). From Dec 27.
30 per cent off designer
womenswear, further dis-
counts as sale progresses.

Aquascutum
100 Regent Street,
London W1 (0800 286922).
From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
lines.

Austin Reed
103-113 Regent Street,
London W1 and branches
(inquiries 0171-734 6789).
From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off (plus 5
per cent discount for account
customers) on Dec 27, 28 and
29, eg. men's pure wool suits
were £279, now £199; men's
pure cotton shirts were
£37.50, now £17.95; women's
winter coats were £279, now
£139.

Ballantyne Cashmere
53a New Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-493 4718).
From Jan 4.
25 per cent off selected items.

Bally
Fifty-nine shops and
concessions nationwide
(inquiries 0800 834865).
From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off autumn/
winter lines.

Bertie Shoes
London: 36 South Molton
Street, W1; 115 King's Road,
SW3; 25 Long Acre,
Covent Garden, WC2 and
40 Oxford Street, W1

Hoopers
The Promenade,
Cheltenham (01242 527505);

North Street, Chichester
(01243 533103); The Strand,
Torquay (01803 212754);
Mount Pleasant Road,
Tunbridge Wells (01892
530222); Hoopers For Men,
The Great Hall,
Tunbridge Wells (01892
529223); and Alderley
Road, Wilmslow (01625
525381). For further
information freecall 0800
318216. From Dec 27.
Selected items reduced by up
to 50 per cent.

House of Fraser
Stores nationwide include
Arnots, Binns, David Evans,
Dickens & Jones, Dingles,
Fraser's, Howells, Jollies,
Kendalls, Rackhams and
Schofield (inquiries 0171-963
2000). From Dec 27.
Scotland: from Boxing Day.
See London listings for
details.

John Lewis
23 department stores
nationwide. From Dec 28 at
High Wycombe,
Bainbridge, Cheadle,
Edinburgh and Aberdeen
(inquiries 0171-629 7711). All
others start Dec 29.
See London listing for reduc-
tions.

Browns
23-27 South Molton
Street, London W1 and 6c
Sloane Street, London
SW1 (inquiries 0171-491
7833). From Jan 4.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items. Donna Karan dark
camel, fitted jacket was
£1,180, sale price £600 (match-
ing skirt was £425, sale price
£230).

Burberry
18-22 Haymarket, London
SW1; 165 Regent Street,
London W1 (inquiries
0171-930 3343). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items. Women's trench coats
were £495, now £285; men's
flyfront raincoats were £395,
now £235; umbrellas were
£52.50, now £32.50.

Caroline Charles
56-57 Beauchamp Place,
London SW3; 170 New Bond
Street, London W1; 9 St
John's Wood High Street,
London NW8; 25 High
Street, Old Amersham,
Buckinghamshire
(inquiries 0171-225 3197).
From Jan 2.
30-50 per cent reductions on
autumn/winter collection.
Wool crepe dresses and suits
discounted by 30 per cent.

Cashmere By Design
44 Neal Street, Covent
Garden, London WC2 (0171-
340 3653). From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off, eg. two-
ply cashmere sleeveless
crewnecks were £89, now £69.

Catherine Walker
Chelsea Design
Company, 65 Sydney Street,
London SW3 (0171-352
4636). From Jan 10.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
day and eveningwear.

Chanel
26 Old Bond Street,
London, W1 and 31 Sloane
Street, London SW1
(inquiries 0171-493 5040).
From Jan 6-13.
30 per cent off autumn/winter
ready-to-wear collection.

Christian Lacroix
8a Sloane Street, London
SW1 (0171-235 2400) and
29 Old Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-409 1994).
Sale now on.
30 per cent off main line, 40
per cent off Bazar.

(inquiries 0171-935 2002).
Sale already under way.
Up to 50 per cent off.

Brora
344 King's Road, London
SW3 (0171-352 3697). From
Jan 5.
Up to 50 per cent off cashmere
knitwear.

Betty Jackson
311 Brompton Road,
London SW3 (0171-599 7884).
Dec 27-end of Jan.
Everything reduced by 50 per
cent, except leather (30 per
cent).

Blazer
Branches nationwide
(0181-749 1251). From Dec 27.
Gawick and Glasgow
branches from Boxing Day.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items.

Dolce & Gabbana
175 Sloane Street,
London SW1 (0171-235 0335).
From Dec 27.
30 per cent off autumn/winter
collection.

Emma Hope
33 Anwell Street, London
EC1 (0171-833 2367).
From Jan 6.
40 per cent off most shoes and
boots.

Emporio Armani
57-59 Long Acre, London
WC2; 111-112 New Bond
Street, London W1; 191
Brompton Road, London
SW3; 84-86 King Street,
Manchester and The Italian
Centre, John Street,
Glasgow (inquiries 0171-623
8818). From Dec 27.

Equipment
21 Sloane Street, London
SW1 (0171-235 9868) and 26
Brook Street, London W1
(0171-491 3130). From Dec 27.
30 per cent off silk and cotton
shirts, further discounts as
sale progresses.

Ermeneegio Zegna
37 New Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-493 4471)
and 42 Shelton Street,
Covent Garden, London
WC2 (0171-497 0001).
Inquiries: 0171-629 7088.
From Jan 2.
Substantial discounts on de-
signer menswear, including
suits from £595 down to £439;
jackets were £450, sale price
£329.

Escada
67 New Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-629 0934);
35a George Street,
Edinburgh (0131-225 9885);
44-46 James Street,
Harrrogate (01433 500477).
From Dec 27.
30-50 per cent off all stock.

Georgina Von Etzdorf
50 Burlington Arcade,
London W1 and 149 Sloane
Street, London SW1
(inquiries 0171-232 6625).
From Jan 3.
Up to 30 per cent off assorted
merchandise.

Gianfranco Ferre
Ladieswear
29 Sloane Street, London,
SW1 (0171-838 9576). From
Jan 4.
Substantial discounts on au-
tumn/winter collection.
Price of Wales check wool
skirt suit was £2,100, sale
price £1,470.

Gieves & Hawkes
No 1 Savile Row, London W1
(inquiries: 0171-434 2001); 20
Old Bond Street, Bath, Avon;
2 Queens Circus, Montpel-
lier, Cheltenham, Gloucester-
shire; 1-7 St Michael's
Row, Chester; 22 The Hard,
Portsmouth, Hants; 112 The
Square, Winchester. From
Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off mens-
wear.

Hermès
155 New Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-499 8856)
and 179 Sloane Street,
London SW3 (0171-823 1014).
Inquiries: 0171-259 5191.
From Jan 6-13.
40 per cent off most ready-to-
wear.

John Lewis
23 department stores
nationwide. From Dec 28 at
High Wycombe,
Bainbridge, Cheadle,
Edinburgh and Aberdeen
(inquiries 0171-629 7711). All
others start Dec 29.
See London listing for reduc-
tions.

Browns
23-27 South Molton
Street, London W1 and 6c
Sloane Street, London
SW1 (inquiries 0171-491
7833). From Jan 4.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items. Donna Karan dark
camel, fitted jacket was
£1,180, sale price £600 (match-
ing skirt was £425, sale price
£230).

Burberry
18-22 Haymarket, London
SW1; 165 Regent Street,
London W1 (inquiries
0171-930 3343). From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items. Women's trench coats
were £495, now £285; men's
flyfront raincoats were £395,
now £235; umbrellas were
£52.50, now £32.50.

Caroline Charles
56-57 Beauchamp Place,
London SW3; 170 New Bond
Street, London W1; 9 St
John's Wood High Street,
London NW8; 25 High
Street, Old Amersham,
Buckinghamshire
(inquiries 0171-225 3197).
From Jan 2.
30-50 per cent reductions on
autumn/winter collection.
Wool crepe dresses and suits
discounted by 30 per cent.

Cashmere By Design
44 Neal Street, Covent
Garden, London WC2 (0171-
340 3653). From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off, eg. two-
ply cashmere sleeveless
crewnecks were £89, now £69.

Catherine Walker
Chelsea Design
Company, 65 Sydney Street,
London SW3 (0171-352
4636). From Jan 10.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
day and eveningwear.

Chanel
26 Old Bond Street,
London, W1 and 31 Sloane
Street, London SW1
(inquiries 0171-493 5040).
From Jan 6-13.
30 per cent off autumn/winter
ready-to-wear collection.

Christian Lacroix
8a Sloane Street, London
SW1 (0171-235 2400) and
29 Old Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-409 1994).
Sale now on.
30 per cent off main line, 40
per cent off Bazar.

Ally Capellino
95 Wardour Street,
London W1 (0171-494 0768);
general inquiries 0171-488
9777. From Dec 29-late Jan.
30-50 per cent off all clothing.

Amanda Wakeley
80 Fulham Road, London
SW3 (0171-584 4009).
From Jan 5.
40-80 per cent off au-
tumn/winter collections.

Anna Molinari
Blumarine
11-12 Old Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-493 4872).
Sale now on.
Up to 25 per cent off selected
merchandise.

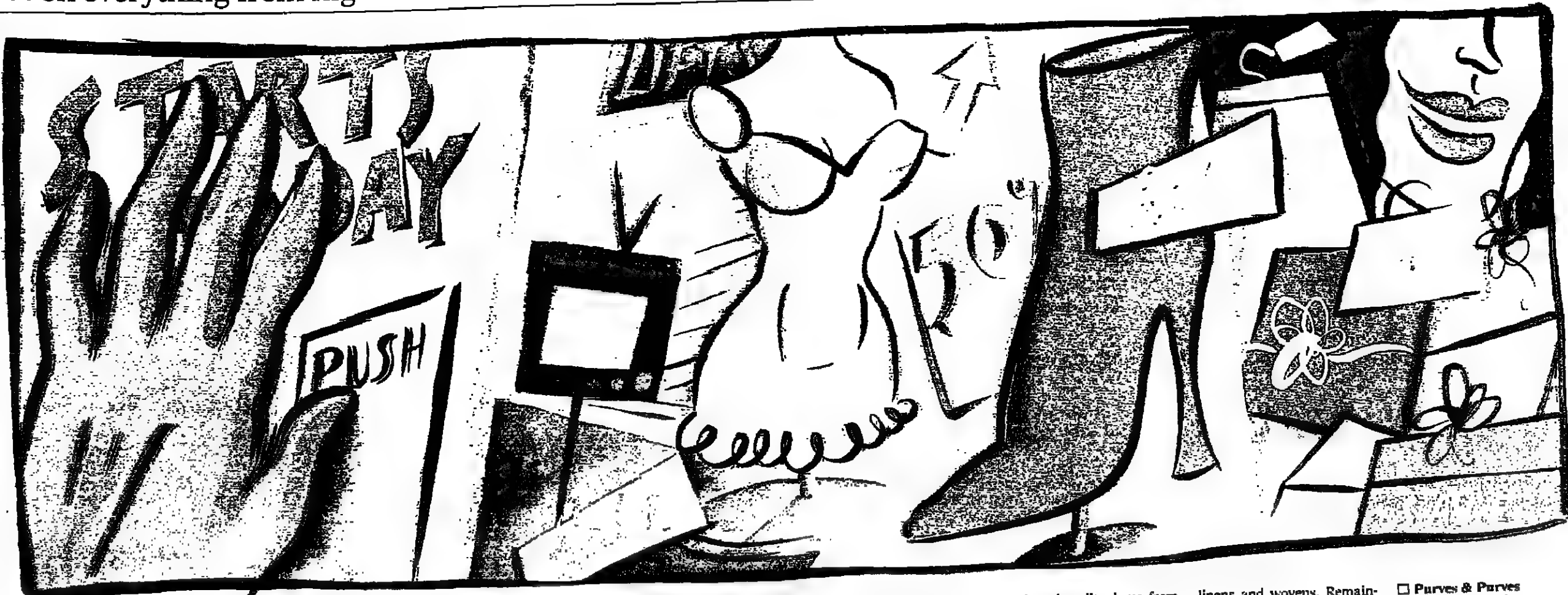
APC
124 Draycott Avenue SW3
(0171-225 0364). From Dec 27.
30 per cent off designer
womenswear, further dis-
counts as sale progresses.

Aquascutum
100 Regent Street,
London W1 (0800 286922).
From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
lines.

Austin Reed
103-1

THE TIMES TUESDAY DECEMBER 26 1995

... on everything from high fashion to household fittings and sporting goods, from Scotland to South Molton Street



Jaeger & Jaeger
Menswear
200-206 Regent Street,
London W1 and 163 Sloane
Street, London SW1 and
branches (0171-200 4000).
From Dec 27. (Preview
Dec 20.)
20-50 per cent reductions on
many lines, including cent off
men's knitwear; 30 per cent
off men's formal attire; 40 per
cent off men's formal shirts.

Jil Sander
26 South Molton Street,
London W1 (0171-491 7833).
From Jan 4.
Substantial discounts on au-
tumn/winter collection. Wool
crepe A-line skirt was £385,
sale price £235; herringbone
coat was £1,515, sale price
£1,065; taupe wool skirt suit
was £1,155, sale price £810;
satin, round-neck, long-
sleeved evening tunic in
cream, navy or grey was
£220, reduced to £135.

John Lobb
90 Jermyn Street, London
SW1 (0171-930 8089). From
Jan 6 (preview Jan 5).
Men's shoes from £195, with a
good selection at £225 —
normal prices £350-£360.

Jones and Jones Femmes
13 & 15 Floral Street,
London WC2 (0171-240
8312) (0171-379 4299).
From Jan 2 (preview Dec
31).
30 per cent off designers such
as Dries van Noten, Helmut
Lang, Issey Miyake.

Jones The Bootmaker
Branches nationwide
(inquiries 01323 694068).
From Dec 27.
Men's and women's footwear
discounted by up to 60 per
cent, eg. men's Logger boots
were £49.99, now £19.99;
women's Scrunche leather
high heel with tassel trim
were £39.99, now £19.99.

Joseph
77 Fulham Road, London
SW3; 26 Sloane Street,
London SW1; 16 Sloane
Street, London SW1; 28
Brook Street, London W1;
23 Old Bond Street W1; 21 St
John's Wood High Street,
London NW8. (Inquiries
0171-736 2522).
From Dec 27.
At least 30 per cent off
autumn/winter collection.

Karen Miller
17-19 Neal Street,
London, WC2 and branches
in the southeast for your
nearest ring 01622 664032.
From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off, eg.
jackets from £50, coats from
£65.

Karl Lagerfeld
173 New Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-493 6277).
Sale now on.
40-60 per cent off au-
tumn/winter collection, in-
cluding women's trouser
suits reduced from £495 to
£297.

Katharine Hammett
20 Sloane Street, London
SW1 (0171-935 3556). From
Dec 28-Jan 6 (then closed for
rehabilitation until Jan 29).
Most stock reduced by 30 per
cent, reductions of up to 70
per cent as the sale pro-
gresses. Women's wool jacket
reduced from £335 to £165;
trousers from £135 to £67.50.

Kingshill Mail Order
For copies of the
Collections and Diffusion
catalogues (£7.50 and
£3.50 respectively) call 01494
890555, or fax 01494
890603. From Jan 1.
Half-price designer clothing
and accessories, including
Jasper Conran, Nicole Farhi,
Caroline Charles, Paul Cos-
telloe, Amanda Wakeley and
Jaeger London.

Laura Ashley
Branches nationwide:
ring 01686 622116 for details.
From Dec 27. Preview for

account customers 8.30-
10.30am on first day; Brent
Cross 10-11.30am.
Scotland: sale starts Boxing
Day. Preview for account
customers 10am-noon on
first day.
20-50 per cent discount on
selected items.

Manolo Blahnik
49-51 Old Church Street,
London SW3 (0171-352 8622).
From Jan 12.
At least 45 per cent off selected
lines, including some shoes
selling at for £50 per pair.

Margaret Howell
29 Beauchamp Place,
London SW3 and 24 Brook
Street, London W1
(inquiries 0171-627 5587).
From Dec 27. Preview
Dec 23.
More than 30 per cent off
autumn/winter collection.

Maxmara
149 New Bond Street,
London W1 and 32 Sloane
Street, London SW1
(inquiries 0171-297 3434).
From Jan 2.
More than 30 per cent off
autumn/winter collection.

Mulberry
11-12 Gess Court, London
W1 (0171-493 1500); 185
Brompton Road, London
SW1 (0171-225 1013) and 23-
25 Swineland, York (01904
61055). For in-store
concessions, see relevant
department stores.
From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off selected
items. Men's watersilk ski
jackets reduced by 40 per
cent; Scotchgrain Clipper
bags from £105; selected

leather bags reduced; most
women's ready-to-wear is re-
duced by one third.

Marks & Spencer
Branches nationwide
(inquiries 0171-935 4422).
From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items and 30 per cent off
eveningwear.

Monsoon
Branches nationwide
(inquiries 0171-313 3000).
From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items and 30 per cent off
eveningwear.

Moss Bros
27 King Street, Covent
Garden, London WC2 (0171-
240 4567); 88 Regent
Street, London W1 (0171-494
0666) and Eastcheap,
London EC3 (0171-626 4247).
Sale already under way.
Up to 50 per cent off, eg.
business suits and dress suits
were £199, now £99.50; cash-
mere overcoats were £599,
sale price £299; Moss Bros
dress shirts were £19.95, sale
price £12.95.

Next
Branches nationwide. For
nearest shop ring 0116
2849424. From Dec 27.
Autumn/winter stock re-
duced by up to 50 per cent.

N Peal
54, 37 and 71 Burlington
Arcade, London W1; 192
Piccadilly, London W1
(inquiries 0171-932 9220).
Sale now on at 54
Burlington Arcade; other
branches from Jan 4.
30-50 per cent discount on
autumn/winter cashmere,
including twinsets, rollnecks
and crewnecks.

Oasis
292 Regent Street,
London W1; 13 St James's
Street, London WC2 and
branches (inquiries 0171-323
5978). From Dec 27.

Paul Smith Women
40 Floral Street, London
WC2 (0171-379 1133). From
Jan 13.
30 to 50 per cent off all stock.

Patrick Cox
8 Symons Street, London
SW3 (0171-730 6504).
From Jan 2.
20 per cent off all men's and
women's shoes.

Paul Smith
40 Floral Street, London
WC2 (0171-379 1133). From
Jan 13.
30 to 50 per cent off all stock.

Paul Smith
40-44 Floral Street,
London WC2 (0171-379 1133).
From Jan 13.
30-50 per cent off all stock.

Polo Ralph Lauren
143 New Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-491 4967).
From Jan 6.
30-50 per cent off au-
tumn/winter collection for
men, women and boys.

Principles
419 Oxford Street,
London W1 and branches
nationwide (inquiries
0171-927 1443). From Dec 27.
Scotland: from Boxing Day.
At least 25 per cent off most
lines.

Richard James
31 Savile Row, London
W1 (0171-434 0605). From
Jan 13.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items.

Romeo Gigli
62 South Molton Street,
London W1 (0171-495 6730).
From Dec 27.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items from autumn/winter
collections for men and
women. Full-length double-
breasted woman's coat with
fur collar was £1,025 now
£515; woman's black or petrol
velvet corduroy trouser suit
was £815, now £410; cotton,
fitted, long-collared shirt with
jewelled cufflinks down from
£305 to £155; brocade fitted
waistcoats reduced to £155
from £310; men's four-button
suit in navy/black/grey or
stripes reduced to £350 from
£700.

Ronit Zilkha
187 Brompton Road,
London SW3 (0171-823 8415);
34 Brook Street, London
W1 (0171-499 3707); 70
Hampstead High Street,
London NW3 (0171-431 0253).
From Dec 27.
30-50 per cent off au-
tumn/winter collection. Cash-
mere and wool knee-length
coat with Peter Pan collar
reduced to £149 from £399.

Racing Green
193-197 Regent Street,
London W1 (0171-437 4300);
33 King Street,
Manchester (0161-835 2022);
Unit F1, The Bentall
Centre, Kingston-upon-
Thames, southwest
London (0181-546 2224) and
16 Buchanan Street,
Glasgow (0141-226 4114). For
a free mail-order
catalogue ring 0345 331177.
From Dec 26 in Glasgow;
Dec 27 in London, Kingston
and Manchester.
Up to 60 per cent off, eg.
women's wool and cashmere
hacking jackets were £115,
now £50; men's wool and
cashmere Doncaster jackets
were £125, now £50.

Red Or Dead
The Centre, Covent Garden,
WC2; Neal Street, Covent
Garden, WC2; 186 Camden
High Street, NW1 and 36
Kensington High Street, W8
(inquiries 0171-937 3137).
From Dec 27.
50 per cent off selected stock.
Acid bright wool suits were
£245, sale price £130; nylon
knee high boots were £120,
sale price £60.

Red Or Dead
The Centre, Covent Garden,
WC2; Neal Street, Covent
Garden, WC2; 186 Camden
High Street, NW1 and 36
Kensington High Street, W8
(inquiries 0171-937 3137).
From Dec 27.
50 per cent off selected stock.
Acid bright wool suits were
£245, sale price £130; nylon
knee high boots were £120,
sale price £60.

Red Or Dead
The Centre, Covent Garden,
WC2; Neal Street, Covent
Garden, WC2; 186 Camden
High Street, NW1 and 36
Kensington High Street, W8
(inquiries 0171-937 3137).
From Dec 27.
50 per cent off selected stock.
Acid bright wool suits were
£245, sale price £130; nylon
knee high boots were £120,
sale price £60.

Red Or Dead
The Centre, Covent Garden,
WC2; Neal Street, Covent
Garden, WC2; 186 Camden
High Street, NW1 and 36
Kensington High Street, W8
(inquiries 0171-937 3137).
From Dec 27.
50 per cent off selected stock.
Acid bright wool suits were
£245, sale price £130; nylon
knee high boots were £120,
sale price £60.

Red Or Dead
The Centre, Covent Garden,
WC2; Neal Street, Covent
Garden, WC2; 186 Camden
High Street, NW1 and 36
Kensington High Street, W8
(inquiries 0171-937 3137).
From Dec 27.
50 per cent off selected stock.
Acid bright wool suits were
£245, sale price £130; nylon
knee high boots were £120,
sale price £60.

Red Or Dead
The Centre, Covent Garden,
WC2; Neal Street, Covent
Garden, WC2; 186 Camden
High Street, NW1 and 36
Kensington High Street, W8
(inquiries 0171-937 3137).
From Dec 27.
50 per cent off selected stock.
Acid bright wool suits were
£245, sale price £130; nylon
knee high boots were £120,
sale price £60.

Red Or Dead
The Centre, Covent Garden,
WC2; Neal Street, Covent
Garden, WC2; 186 Camden
High Street, NW1 and 36
Kensington High Street, W8
(inquiries 0171-937 3137).
From Dec 27.
50 per cent off selected stock.
Acid bright wool suits were
£245, sale price £130; nylon
knee high boots were £120,
sale price £60.

Red Or Dead
The Centre, Covent Garden,
WC2; Neal Street, Covent
Garden, WC2; 186 Camden
High Street, NW1 and 36
Kensington High Street, W8
(inquiries 0171-937 3137).
From Dec 27.
50 per cent off selected stock.
Acid bright wool suits were
£245, sale price £130; nylon
knee high boots were £120,
sale price £60.

SW1 (0171-823 2505) and
24 Church Alley, Liverpool
(0151-708 9236).
From Dec 28.
30-50 per cent discounts on all
womenswear and child-
rensware.

S Fisher
23-23 Burlington Arcade,
London W1 (0171-493 4180).
From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off selected
garments, including John
Smedley lines.

Scotch House
2 Brompton Road,
London SW1; 84-86 Regent
Street, London W1 and 64
Buchanan Street, Glasgow
(inquiries 0171-581 2151).
From Dec 27.
30-40 per cent off selected
stock. Women's cashmere
crewnecks down from £175 to
£129; men's cashmere V-
necks now £169, were £235.

Simpson
Piccadilly, London W1
(0800 288188).
From Dec 27.
25-50 per cent off selected
merchandise, including
DAKS women's jackets re-
duced to £159 (from £229);
men's DAKS suits were £299,
sale price £149.

Space NK
Thomas Neal's, 41
Earlham Street, London
WC2 (0171-379 7030).
From Dec 28.
30 to 40 per cent off designer
labels such as Clements
Ribeiro, Future Ozbek, Liza
Bruce.

Swaine Adeney Briggs
10 Old Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-409 7277).
From Dec 30.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
items, including 30 per cent
off women's and menswear;
20 per cent off certain ranges
of the Briggs umbrella.

Thomas Pink
London: 85 Jermyn Street,
SW1; 35 Dover Street, W1; 16
Blomfield Street, EC2; 16
Cullum Street, EC3; 44 Bow
Lane, EC4; 82 Chancery
Lane, WC2; Drayton
Gardens, SW10; Cabot
Place East, Canary Wharf,
E14; 32 Castle Street,
Edinburgh (inquiries: 0171-
498 2202). Sale starts
Jermyn Street, Drayton
Gardens and Church
Street, Edinburgh from
Boxing Day; all other
stores from Dec 27. Sale ends
Jan 20.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
merchandise.

Timberland
72 New Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-935 2139).
From Dec 27.
Up to 40 per cent off selected
stock. Men's footwear re-
duced by up to 25 per cent;
women's footwear by up to 30
per cent.

Valentino
173-174 Sloane Street,
London SW1 and 160 New
Bond Street, London W1
(inquiries: 0171-493 2698).
Sale now on.
40-60 per cent off au-
tumn/winter collection for
women. Men's collection at
Sloane Street reduced by
around 30 per cent.

Versace
34-36 Old Bond Street,
London W1 (0171-499 1862)
and the Italian Centre,
Glasgow (0141-552 6510).
From Jan 4.
30 per cent off selected items.

Versus by Versace
92 Brompton Road,
London SW3 (0171-581 8407).
From Jan 4.
30 per cent off selected stock.

Wannabe by Patrick Cox
129 Sloane Street,
London SW1 (0171-730 8886).
From Jan 2.
50 per cent off all clothing, 20
per cent off selected shoes and
accessories. NB: classic
styles, eg. python, are not
included in the sale.

Warehouse
22-24 Argyle Street,
London W1 (0171-378 3491)
and nationwide (0181-910
1400 for details).
From Christmas Eve.
Up to one third off.

Whistles
27 Sloane Square,
London, SW1; 12-14 St

patchwork quilts down from
£295 to £140.

Descamps
197 Sloane Street, London
SW1 (0171-235 6957). Also on
sale at Liberty, Regent
Street, London W1.
From Dec 27.
Substantial reductions on
spring/summer 1995 collec-
tion of bedlinens, towels and
bathrobes.

Designers Guild
267 and 277 King's Road,
London SW3 (0171-351 5775).
From Jan 6.
Up to 50 per cent off
selected items including
printed, colour woven, appli-
qué and embroidered bed-
linen. 20-50 per cent off
upholstered furniture.

Designers Guild
Warehouse Sale: 6 Relay
Road, Ariel Way, off
Wood Lane, London
W12 (0171-243 7300).
From Jan 13.
Big reductions on fabric and
wallpaper.

Divertimenti
45-47 Wigmore Street,
London W1 (0171-935 0699) &
130-141 Fulham Road,
London SW3 (0171-581 8065).
From Jan 13.
Up to 50 per cent off items
throughout the store, eg. Ital-
ian Gallina pottery (new pat-
tern) at half price.

The General Trading
Company
144 Sloane Street,
London SW1 (0171-730 0411);
10 Argyle Street, Bath,
Avon (01225 461507); 24 Dyer
Street, Cirencester,
Wiltshire (01285 652314).
London: From Jan 6 for
three weeks; Bath and
Cirencester: Dec 27.
Up to 30 per cent off selected
merchandise. Selected quilted
cotton bedspreads were £180,
sale price £135; Kelim stools
were £640, sale price £500.

Habitat
Stores nationwide. Ring
0645 334433 for nearest
branch.
From Dec 27-Jan 28.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
stock. Solid beech table was
£399, now £279; maple table
was £249, now £199; Boundry
bedroom furniture discount-
ed by 20 per cent; Garrick
sofa was £949, now £759,
matching armchair was
£499, now £399.

Heal's
196 Tottenham Court
Road, London W1;
234 King's Road, London
SW3; and Tunsgate,
Guildford, Surrey
(inquiries 0171-636 1666).
From Dec 27-Jan 21.
10-50 per cent off selected
home furnishings. Heal's
Avon handmade beds re-
duced from £2,495 to £1,870;
Tivoli oak dining table down
from £895 to £779; Yuli sofa
in natural lacquered rattan
reduced from £550 to £325.

Heal's
196 Tottenham Court
Road, London W1;
234 King's Road, London
SW3; and Tunsgate,
Guildford, Surrey
(inquiries 0171-636 1666).
From Dec 27-Jan 21.
10-50 per cent off selected
home furnishings. Heal's
Avon handmade beds re-
duced from £2,495 to £1,870;
Tivoli oak dining table down
from £895 to £779; Yuli sofa
in natural lacquered rattan
reduced from £550 to £325.

Heal's
196 Tottenham Court
Road, London W1;
234 King's Road, London
SW3; and Tunsgate,
Guildford, Surrey
(inquiries 0171-636 1666).
From Dec 27-Jan 21.
10-50 per cent off selected
home furnishings. Heal's
Avon handmade beds re-
duced from £2,495 to £1,870;
Tivoli oak dining table down
from £895 to £779; Yuli sofa
in natural lacquered rattan
reduced from £550 to £325.

Heal's
196 Tottenham Court
Road, London W1;
234 King's Road, London
SW3; and Tunsgate,
Guildford, Surrey
(inquiries 0171-636 1666).
From Dec 27-Jan 21.
10-50 per cent off selected
home furnishings. Heal's
Avon handmade beds re-
duced from £2,495 to £1,870;
Tivoli oak dining table down
from £895 to £779; Yuli sofa
in natural lacquered rattan
reduced from £550 to £325.

Heal's
196 Tottenham Court
Road, London W1;
234 King's Road, London
SW3; and Tunsgate,
Guildford, Surrey
(inquiries 0171-636 1666).
From Dec 27-Jan 21.
10-50 per cent off selected
home furnishings. Heal's
Avon handmade beds re-
duced from £2,495 to £1,870;
Tivoli oak dining table down
from £895 to £779; Yuli sofa
in natural lacquered rattan
reduced from £550 to £325.

Heal's
196 Tottenham Court
Road, London W1;
234 King's Road, London
SW3; and Tunsgate,
Guildford, Surrey
(inquiries 0171-636 1666).
From Dec 27-Jan 21.
10-50 per cent off selected
home furnishings. Heal's
Avon handmade beds re-
duced from £2,495 to £1,870;
Tivoli oak dining table down
from £895 to £779; Yuli sofa
in natural lacquered rattan
reduced from £550 to £325.

Heal's
196 Tottenham Court
Road, London W1;
234 King's Road, London
SW3; and Tunsgate,
Guildford, Surrey
(inquiries 0171-636 1666).
From Dec 27-Jan 21.
10-50 per cent off selected
home furnishings. Heal's
Avon handmade beds re-
duced from £2,495 to £1,870;
Tivoli oak dining table down
from £895 to £779; Yuli sofa
in natural lacquered rattan
reduced from £550 to £325.

Heal's
196 Tottenham Court
Road, London W1;
234 King's Road, London
SW3; and Tunsgate,
Guildford, Surrey
(inquiries 0171-636 1666).
From Dec 27-Jan 21.
10-50 per cent off selected
home furnishings. Heal's
Avon handmade beds re-
duced from £2,495 to £1,870;
Tivoli oak dining table down
from £895 to £779; Yuli sofa
in natural lacquered rattan
reduced from £550 to £325.

linens and wovens. Remain-
dered batches of wallpaper
plus remnants.

Jerry's Home Store
163 Fulham Road,
London SW3 (0171-581 0809);
57 Heath Street,
Hampstead, London NW3
(0171-794 8622); The
Bentall Centre, Kingston,
southwest London (0181-
549 5393); and Home on
Four, Harvey Nichols,
Knightsbridge, London SW1
(0171-245 6251). From Jan
9 for seven weeks.

The Monogrammed
Linen Shop
168 Walton Street,
London SW3 (0171-589 4033).
From Jan 2.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
stock, eg. 100 per cent cotton
sheet sets and duvet covers in
plain pastel colours at half
price (single sheet now £7).

Natural Flooring Direct
PO Box 5104, London
SE16. (Freephone 0800
454731 for mail-order
information, orders and
inquiries). From Jan 3.
10 per cent off all stock
including oiled, semi-bleached
jute, sisal and wool boucle,
with free fitting, and site
survey.

Nice Irma's
46 Grogg Street, London
W1 (0171-308 6921).
From Jan 5.
Up to 50 per cent off selected
stock. Plaid bedspreads in six
designs were £37.10, sale
price £24.10 (kingsize — also
available in single and dou-
ble); plaid cushion covers
were £8.40, sale price £5.50;
50 per cent off a range of iron
and brass ware.

Oggetti
133 Fulham Road,
London SW3 (0171-581 8088).
From Jan 6-27.
At least 10 per cent off, with
further discounts on selected
items.

Oggettilessi
143 Fulham Road,
London SW3 (0171-584 9808).
From Jan 6-27.
At least 10 per cent off all
stock, with further discounts
on selected items.

Paperchase
213 Tottenham Court
Road, London W1 (0171-580
8496). From Dec 27.
All Christmas stock reduced
by 25 per cent.

The Pier
200 Tottenham Court
Road, London W1; 91-95
King's Road, London
SW3; 10 Union Street, Bath;
Pavilions Shopping
Centre, Birmingham;
Hanningtons, 16-17 North
Street, Brighton; The
Galleries Shopping
Centre, Bristol; Queens
Arcade, Cardiff; Tunsgate
Square, Guildford; The
Bentall Centre, Kingston
upon Thames, southwest
London; 98 Castle Mall,
Norwich; Marlands
Shopping Centre,
Southampton; 40 The
Harlequin Centre,
Watford & Centre Court,
Wimbledon (inquiries
0171-351 7100). From Dec 28.
Selected stock reduced to half
price or less. Some wicker
furniture ranges such as
Manang, Surabaya, Ameri-
cana and Antibes reduced by
20 per cent.

Snow & Rock
188 Kensington High
Street, London W8 (0171-937
8872); 150 Holborn,
London EC1 (0171-831 6900);
14 Priory Queensway,
Birmingham (0121-236 8280);
Hemel Ski Centre, St
Albans Hill, Hemel
Hempstead, Herts (01442
235305); 99 Fordwater Road,
Chertsey, Surrey (01932
569569) and Sheffield Ski
Village, Vale Road,
Parkwood Springs, Sheffield
(01142 769459).
From Dec 27.
Many items substantially re-
duced. 10 per cent off all
accessories and ski boots.

Information correct at
time of going to



TURKEYS

Our series of great disasters opens with an account of Lionel Bart's ill-fated *Twang!*



VISUAL ART

Alphabetical order: a superb collection of lettering on show at the Crafts Council

THE TIMES ARTS



MUSIC

John Eliot Gardiner's recording of the *Christmas Oratorio* is our CD choice



TOMORROW

A turkey on screen: at *Heaven's Gate*, everything that could go wrong usually did

A critic's lot is not a happy one, says **Benedict Nightingale**, recalling the worst musical in the history of the world

Stinkers ain't what they used to be

Did I really see and hear a chorus of wiggling lovelies in wimples sing "too late the spring has sprang, my final fling has flang, yes I'm the twing who twang"? Well, I have a cassette which assures me I did, though it cannot confirm my suspicion that the poor women were rattling chastity belts at the time. Thirty years after the nightmare itself, only odd, lurid fragments remain in a memory that has, I fear, never been wholly trustworthy. But I am still pretty sure that Lionel Bart's *Robin Hood* musical, *Twang!*, was the worst thing I have yet seen.

It faces stiff competition, some of it recent. This very year has been a golden age for barmy Shakespeare revivals. It will take me some time to get over the ending of Jude Kelly's often excitingly imaginative revival of *Lea*. What chance of being moved by the death of Warren Mitchell's tragic hero when it was instantly upstaged by the arrival of a Rastafarian King of France, flanked by motor-cycle couriers in leather and clearly intent on annexing England?

Then there was a multicultural *Antony and Cleopatra* in which Vanessa Redgrave unworshippingly dallied with a Russian, a Bosnian, an incomprehensible Glaswegian, a French-Vietnamese Charmingian ("oh-la-la") and an Afro-American Antony, who wandered bearing through the concrete rubble of war-torn Alexandria like Santa Claus on Prozac. And let's not forget Mark Rylance's *Macbeth*, which turned out to involve a Hare-Kraifne sect taken over by a stupendously boring Texan evangelist. Extras included a drag lollipop-lady called Hecate, who used her children-crossing sign as a spoof guitar with which to serenade mini-skirted witches at a nightclub called the Pit of Acheron. Each of these productions shrank

its play from a mountain to an untidy molehill, and in each case I find I began my review by invoking what might be called the O'Toole Threat. That is to say, both came perilously close to claiming the title of worst-Shakespeare-ever from a production that passed into lore within days of its opening at the Old Vic. But no, the Peter O'Toole *Macbeth* can keep the trophy — a replica of the Bard mooning at the audience? — that we reviewers gave it in 1980.

I went to the second night of Brian Forbes's production, which was a doubly weird affair. The first notices had already appeared, bringing the director onstage to defend his work both against the critics and an unnamed producer he called "Judas", all to the accompaniment of yells of "ter-wang!" from a claque of roughly dressed gentlemen who had slid into the back of the stalls just before the final curtain. But the greater oddity was what Forbes had done to the play.

He had attempted several miracles, such as asking the audience to shudder at a blood-boltered Banquo who had clearly swum five lengths in red paint, and none had come off. Least of all had he succeeded in getting a good performance from O'Toole, who saw *Macbeth* as a surly, brutalised oaf who lolled and swaggered across the stage half-bellowing, half-chanting in a bizarre actorish staccato, so that "Duncan" became "Dun Ken" and "but here" "bat hair".

The previous evening he had reputedly tried to edit through a wall, making the set lurch alarmingly. This time, the eccentricities were equally common but more banal. Everything and everyone — Macduff, Duncan, the dagger, hell, his own conscience — were hectoring in the style of the Monty Python loudmouth with the handkerchief knotted over his ears. The



Got any tickets for South America? The *Twang!* notices are just in: Lionel Bart, once the golden boy of British musicals, came unstrung with his version of *Robin Hood*

audience laughed, but O'Toole did not mind. "Macbeth is a very funny play," he said later.

But when it comes to awfulness, musicals are in a category of their own. It is difficult enough to get the mix of book, tunes, decor, stars and chorus right in the first place; and throwing money at the problem is seldom a solution. The more producers spend, the more financially trapped they become, the more desperate the "fixes" get, and the worse their show finally is. That algebra certainly seems to explain *Twang!*, which ended up costing a then British record of £130,000 to bring to London.

Was it worse than the most recent musical disasters, *Which Witch* and *Bernadette*? Well, their lyrics could not compete with

An atom bomb goes bang,
An armoured suit goes clang
An archer's bow goes ter-wang.

Was it worse than the American show *Marilyn*, whose climax had poor Monroe in a bubble bath, singing along with a trio of plumbers in pink? Even that did not

match the next three lines of Bart's title-song:

That's how my heartstrings went — ter-wang!
That's the sound you sent — ter-wang!
Down to my fundament when I first set eyes on you.

I reviewed *Twang!* first at its premiere in Manchester and again at the kill in the West End. But it was a nice assignment for a cub journalist. The advance hype was tremendous, for the creator of *Oliver!* was then at the height of his fame and his director was Joan Littlewood, who had launched his career with *Fings Ain't What They Used to Be*. With Bernard Bresslaw as Little John, Barbara Windsor as a Cockney nymphomaniac called Delphina, James Booth as a spivish Robin Hood, and Ronnie Corbett as Will Scarlett, it could not fail — could it?

Well, rumours of trouble soon surfaced in Manchester. It was said that Littlewood was so busy getting the cast to do Vietcong improvisations that the show had no shape,

plot or even text. As the first night approached, the changes were so many that Corbett left the rehearsal room for a pee, only to find on his return that a key speech had gone. "Don't ever let me go for a shit," he told Littlewood, "or you'll cut out my entire part."

Littlewood thought Oliver Messel's costumes too posh and made the cast jump up and down on them, and threw out the expensive velvet leaves he had designed for Sherwood Forest. Meanwhile, Bart was chauffeured about town in a Cadillac wearing a flat northern cap and a sleepless, desperate look. The director and composer began to feud. A day after the world premiere, Littlewood quit and the producer, Bernard Delfont, soon followed.

For me, the two openings blur into one, which is a pity, for Burt Shevelove was brought in as director, and he and Bart continued to make changes up to what was unsurprisingly a delayed London first night. The plot, such as it was,

involved the Merry Men's attempts to rescue Delphina from Prince John, who wanted to marry her to a Scot called Roger the Ugly. But in Manchester in particular the songs seemed unrelated to the action and confusion ruled.

There, the audience remained grimly unmoved both by the crusaders' wives ("we clink as we walk and shout for an outlaw until we're undone") in their chastity belts and by exchanges such as "We'll toss the caber", "Don't be filthy". But mainly I remember the moment when Windsor, alone onstage, had to say "I don't know what's going on here", to which the balcony riposted "not do we" and at long last laughter filled the Palace Theatre's vast, silent auditorium. I have never since been able to think of her without respect, for she just grinned and gamely battled on.

There was all of 25 seconds applause at the end, and it might have been less if the Manchester audience had known Bart was already describing them as "guinea pigs" and the first night as a "rehearsal". But the show was little

better in the West End. The Sheriff of Nottingham was now stripped to pink combinations, and the Merry Men did some cheery cross-dressing, provoking one critic to compare them to "prancing male models, anxious to get home and put their hair in curlers". Frier Tuck made V-signs and gurgled. It was like a bad *Carry On* film with songs that sometimes rhymed.

That pleased Danny is Rye, who answered the London gallery's shouts of "thank God that's over" with "there are artists down there, doing their best". So they were, too, but that did not stop the show expiring a month after its opening. Bart took most of the flak, though in my view the real culprit was Littlewood. Her rough-theatre arrogance ensured that a dubious idea got off to the worst possible start, and after she had floundered off, the Getty miller could not have bought a quick enough fix.

But let the heroic Windsor have the last word: "Whenever I'm in a show that's not going well I think of *Twang!*, because if one can survive that, one can survive anything."

Jim McCue on an inspirational display of lettering at the Crafts Council Gallery in London

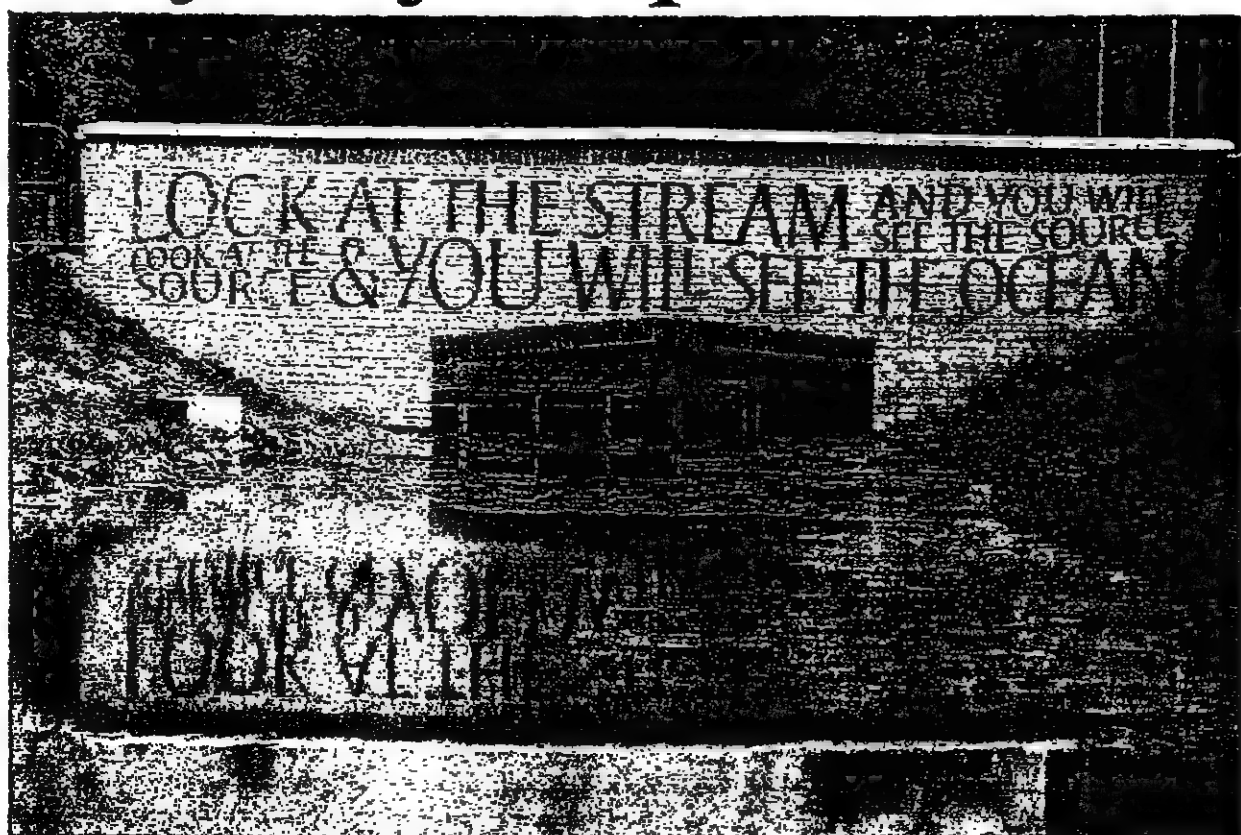
The many ways to put art into words

It's a jumble in there, indeed it's a jumble-sale, but there are treasures. Several of the lettering works now at the Crafts Council point to opportunities for turning a simple task or routine event into something unique.

Richard Kindersley has developed a way of carving monumental letters into brick, whether it be for the Shakespeare Centre at Stratford or a shopping centre in Cambridge. Bishop Fox's School in Taunton was inspired to ask him to make something of a new bridge over the Stockwell Stream. His tribute to the place is not only true to the setting, but inherently inscripational. In a kind of graphic chiasmus, these visible words make three statements out of two lines.

Alan Blackman has been posting first day covers to himself since 1968. But instead of merely writing his address, he treats each envelope as a canvas. His name and address become graphic elements, wittily copying the different designs of the stamps, or complementing their celebration. Once, when sending himself the Royal Mail's 1991 Ordnance Survey stamps, he painted a map of his street in place of the address.

Michael Harvey designed more than 1,500 lettered book-jackets between 1958 and 1985, from Graham Greene to works of physics for Cambridge University Press. His work now is principally in computer-designing of typefaces, but his colourful,



Something unique: Richard Kindersley's carving of monumental letters decorates this bridge in Taunton

tactful dustwrappers — distinctively his, yet each quite individual — ought to be more celebrated. A book about them would be welcome.

Workers with brushes, pens, wood, plastic, glass, slate, vellum, silkscreen, gouache, wax and metal are represented here. For some, writing is an embellishment; for others it is the determining essential, the object of scrutiny, the thing itself.

Tom Perkins is continuing to establish very spatial relationships between the curves of letters and the areas they enclose. Cutting single incisive letters into slate, he takes them right to the edges. His "g" is as sensuous as a dancer, and deeply groovy. Others, such as Tom Kemp, have pushed letterforms beyond recognition. The feathery swirls of his *Watching the Dust Settle* — blue gouache on a large sheet

of paper — have an oriental delicacy of brushwork. *Pythagoras* by Annet Stirling and Brenda Berman is carved into Purbeck Portland stone, and looks at first like hieroglyphics. They have carved not letters, nor even their outlines, but suggestions of the spacing between them. The minimal message demands maximum attention, until — Eureka! How remarkably little information the eye needs. Just as *Homo*

sapiens sees faces in a few lines or even the radiator of a car, so *Homo literarum* sees writing in the slightest trace. The true inventiveness of such work shows up both the moribund state of the kind of formal calligraphy used for diplomas, and the lawdriness of much commercial design for posters and packing. At both extremes the problem is the same: the lettering is unrelated to the individual occasion.

Of course this show is supposed to be a mixture of characters — from the granting of peerages to the loucheness of CD-cover lettering — but they ought not to jostle so. Pieces such as Stephen Rave's five-foot watercolour "g" or the elegant slate "Only the educated are free", from Lida Lopez Cardoso's workshop in Cambridge, need to be seen from afar as well as close up.

Every aspect of the show's organisation is a disservice. The title is empty. The arrangement neither guides nor provokes. The catalogue is pretentiously designed, and some copies seem either to lack pages or have them twinned.

Davy M. Levy contributes an thoughtful essay, but the rest, reprinted from elsewhere, is vacuous or worse. Much of what is illustrated is not in the show, and vice versa.

Yet many of the artists triumph over these adversities. There is an alternative to the ordinary way of working. It may require experimentation. It will require time and imagination. But it can make drudgery divine, give the true satisfaction of workmanship, and make a bright mark in the world — perhaps lastingly.

Order and Messages: The Living Tradition of Hand Lettering is at the Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pennine Road, London N1 0PL (01753 7700) until Feb 4. The Letter Exchange, for people discovering lettering, can be contacted at 30 Strathblaine Road, London SW11 1RG.

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

BACH'S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

Reviewed by George Pratt

Bach unified the six cantatas for Christmas to Epiphany 1734-35 with a printed libretto. They share, too, exceptionally colourful orchestration, three layers of text, and much material borrowed from elsewhere.

Such borrowing is no reflection on Bach's integrity or on the quality of his music. He used only his own previous music, and most of the source material was for one-off celebrations — royal birthdays, a coronation anniversary — after which the music would be shelved. And, significantly, Bach borrowed in one direction only, sanctifying the secular but never de-sanctifying the sacred.

The Christmas story is told through biblical text sung in recitative by an Evangelist. Only two of the 11 available recordings separate this distinctive role from that of the tenor's contemplative aria interludes: Peter Schreier narrates responsively in Helmuth Rilling's 1984 recording (Hänssler), contributing to its lively pace — fully 30 minutes shorter than the most leisurely (Gerhard Schmidt-Gaden on DHM). Anthony Rolfe-Johnson's recitative with John Eliot Gardiner (1987) is so expressive that it virtually precludes the need for translation.

Lutheran chorales, the second source of text, are remarkably diverse. Eugen Jochum (Philips) and Michael Corboz (Erato) are slow and sanctimonious. Static pauses at phrase-



endings hold up Philippe Herreweghe's Ghent Collegium Vocale (Virgin) and Schreier, Evangelist-turned-conductor (Philips). Karl Richter is slower still in the earliest (50 years old) recording, (Archiv).

The composer's most vivid colours are in response to the newly written text of arias and choruses. The opening bars of Part I begin with five drumstrokes answered by two flutes, then oboes, cascading strings and three glistening trumpets, before the choir enters. Here, modern instruments lose out to period sounds, because, like a newly restored painting, that is how the colours and textures can be revealed again in their original freshness.

Harry Christophers (Coll 7028-2) is persuasively zealous in large-scale movements, sincere in the Virgin's contemplative lullaby. But John Eliot Gardiner (Archiv 423 232-2, £25.95) stands alone, with a superbly cast solo team, transparent choral textures from the Monteverdi Choir, the brilliant colours of the English Baroque Soloists and, above all, a sustained sense of heartfelt joy.

Recommended recordings can be ordered from the Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barbican Road, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk)

سكزا من الامل



CHOICE 1
At the Unicorn Theatre in London, *The Pied Piper* will lead a merry dance



CHOICE 2
Peter Pan comes flying into the West Yorkshire Playhouse with Una Stubbs and David Bamber

THE TIMES ARTS



CHOICE 3
Bonnie Langford brings her unique charms to Bromley for a staging of *Aladdin*



CHOICE 4
Merlin the Magnificent works his wizardry at the Royal Lyceum in Edinburgh

Take your pick from our choice of the best post-Christmas shows around the country

Join the nation at seasonal play

LONDON

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: Revival of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Clive Francis plays Scrooge. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8991).

CINDERELLA: Matthew Hart's fairy-dust sprinkled work for London City Ballet. Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, EC1 (0171-713 6000).

COMPANY: Adrian Lester, Sheila Gish, Sophie Thompson in an excellent staging of Sondheim's bittersweet musical on marriage.

Donmar Warehouse: Earls Court, SW2 (0171-369 1732).

THE GLASS MENAGERIE: Sam Mendes's radiant production: Zoe Wanamaker and Claire Skinner play mother and daughter; Ben Walden is Tom.

HANSEL AND GRETEL: Palace Opera offer five performances of Humperdinck's opulent, popular work.

Queen Elizabeth Hall: South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242).

HYSTERIA: Henry Goodman plays Freud, with Tim Potter as Salvador Dali, in Terry Johnson's surreal, double award-winning. The funniest serious play in London.

Duke of Yorks: St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5123).

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society.

Garrick Charing Cross Road: WC2 (0171-444 5085).

THE NUTCRACKER: An acclaimed confection by Ben Stevenson and Desmond Heeley for English National Ballet.

Festival Hall: South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242).

THE PIED PIPER: More family fun from the wizards at the Unicorn. Music by Joanna MacGregor.

Unicorn: Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 3334).

PRIVATES ON PARADE: Tony Slattery plays the irrepressible camp entertainer in Peter Nichols's comedy with music, set at a 1948 Army Camp Party in Malaysia.

Greenwich: Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-888 7755).

RETURN TO THE FORBIDDEN PLANET: A marvellous mad mix of *The Tempest* with *Great Balls of Fire* and other cosmic hits of the 1950s and 1960s.

SHAFESBURY

Shafesbury, Shafesbury Avenue, WC2 (0171-374 5304).

THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee.

THE TOWER: Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless.

Sinead Cusack: plays the sad and murderous queen, *Almeida*. Almeida Street, NI (0171-359 4404).

WILD OATS: Highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keeffe's 1791 farce, with Anton Lesser, James Bolam and Andrew Sachs.

National Lyric Theatre: South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2253).

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the new annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.

Old Vic: Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655).

THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee.

THE TOWER: Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless.

Sinead Cusack: plays the sad and murderous queen, *Almeida*. Almeida Street, NI (0171-359 4404).

WILD OATS: Highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keeffe's 1791 farce, with Anton Lesser, James Bolam and Andrew Sachs.

National Lyric Theatre: South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2253).

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the new annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.

Old Vic: Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655).

THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee.

THE TOWER: Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless.

Sinead Cusack: plays the sad and murderous queen, *Almeida*. Almeida Street, NI (0171-359 4404).

WILD OATS: Highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keeffe's 1791 farce, with Anton Lesser, James Bolam and Andrew Sachs.

National Lyric Theatre: South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2253).

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the new annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.

Old Vic: Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655).

THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE: A witty evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Assembled by Christopher Luscombe and Malcolm McKee.

THE TOWER: Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way over the top for most modern tastes but is worth a visit nonetheless.

Sinead Cusack: plays the sad and murderous queen, *Almeida*. Almeida Street, NI (0171-359 4404).

WILD OATS: Highly enjoyable revival of John O'Keeffe's 1791 farce, with Anton Lesser, James Bolam and Andrew Sachs.

National Lyric Theatre: South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2253).

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS: Jeremy Sinden plays the ebullient Toad in the new annual return of the National Theatre production. Still delightful.

Old Vic: Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 6655).



Chris Northey in Library Theatre Company's staging of Dahl's *BFG* at Wythenshawe

Warwick Arts Centre: (0121 524 524).

EDINBURGH: Stuart Patterson's *Merlin the Magnificent* has an ageing wizard, wicked Morgana le Fay and the boy Arthur. All in a crazy Scottish castle.

ROYAL LYCEUM: (0131 239 9607).

THE FESTIVAL THEATRE: offers Christmas in its own tradition, with *The Hot Ice Show*.

FOREST OF DEAN: Welsh National Opera is on a small scale tour with Humperdinck's *Hansel & Gretel*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE SWAN

(01494 513000).

GUILDFORD: Brian Blessed stars as the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*.

YVONNE ARAUD: (01483 440000).

LEATHERHEAD: Bah-hungry abounds as Richard Todd plays Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol*.

LEEDS: The World Goes 'Round is a noisy musical tribute to Kander & Ebb.

LEICESTER: Paul Kerryson directs Frank Loesser's song-packed *Cats* and *Dolls*.

MANCHESTER: It's all top hats and swirling tulle with Harry Secombe and Ruth Madoc in *Pickwick*.

Opera House: (0161 242 2503).

BEN KEATON, JOSEPH ALESSI AND TOBY SEDGWICK: play the Marx Brothers in *Animal Crackers*.

ROYAL EXCHANGE: (0161 833 9833).

MOLD: Jack Nall stars in *Gulliver's Travels*: weird and wonderful designs by Ralph Steadman and a script by Humphrey Carpenter.

THEATRE CLYD: (01552 755114).

NORWICH: Timothy West and Angharad Rees star in *Supper's Ready*.

SOUTHAMPTON: True love, jealousy and revenge, rolled into one for *Dumas*.

WOKING: Dick Whittington hosts Lesley Joseph, Rosemarie Ford, Krisi Akubisi and Robert Duncanson.

WYTHENSHAW: The Forum presents Roald Dahl's *BFG*. A suitably magical production, from Manchester's Library Theatre.

Forum: (0161 437 9663).

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

WYCOMBE: Mill-cent Martin whips it up as the wicked Queen in *Snow White*.

CINEMA GUIDE

NEW RELEASES

on release across the country where indicated with the symbol \odot

THE INDIAN IN THE CUPBOARD: PG. A boy and his magic cup come alive. Animated and magnificent. Version of L. Frank Baum's 1917 children's novel. With Hal Scardino and Leland. Director: Frank Oz.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT: (15) President gets a girlfriend? Not much even with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Director: Rob Reiner.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

ANGELS AND INSECTS: (15) Production of the American film. Handmade but not much. With Mark Rydall, Pauline and John Scott. Director: Peter Jackson.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

APOLLO 13: (PG) The real lunar moon mission. 1970. Splendidly filmed, but commercial drama. With Tom Hanks, Kevin Spacey and Ed Harris. Director: Ron Howard.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

BABE: (U) Glorious, majestic family film about a sheep-herding dog, with a cast of talking animals. Director: Chris Noonan.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE: (PG) Revival of 1946 film. Beautifully filmed. With Jean Seberg and Jean-Paul Belmondo. Director: Jean-Claude Cocteau.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY: (PG) A love story. With Kevin Costner and Mary McCormack. Director: Clint Eastwood.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN: (PG) A comedy. With John Cleese and Peter Cook. Director: Peter Cook.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

CRIMINAL MINDS: (15) A thriller. With John Cleese and Peter Cook. Director: Peter Cook.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY: (PG) A love story. With Kevin Costner and Mary McCormack. Director: Clint Eastwood.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN: (PG) A comedy. With John Cleese and Peter Cook. Director: Peter Cook.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

CRIMINAL MINDS: (15) A thriller. With John Cleese and Peter Cook. Director: Peter Cook.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY: (PG) A love story. With Kevin Costner and Mary McCormack. Director: Clint Eastwood.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN: (PG) A comedy. With John Cleese and Peter Cook. Director: Peter Cook.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

CRIMINAL MINDS: (15) A thriller. With John Cleese and Peter Cook. Director: Peter Cook.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

CURRENT

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT: (15) President gets a girlfriend? Not much even with Michael Douglas and Annette Bening. Director: Rob Reiner.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

ANGELS AND INSECTS: (15) Production of the American film. Handmade but not much. With Mark Rydall, Pauline and John Scott. Director: Peter Jackson.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

APOLLO 13: (PG) The real lunar moon mission. 1970. Splendidly filmed, but commercial drama. With Tom Hanks, Kevin Spacey and Ed Harris. Director: Ron Howard.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

BABE: (U) Glorious, majestic family film about a sheep-herding dog, with a cast of talking animals. Director: Chris Noonan.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

LA BELLE ET LA BÊTE: (PG) Revival of 1946 film. Beautifully filmed. With Jean Seberg and Jean-Paul Belmondo. Director: Jean-Claude Cocteau.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY: (PG) A love story. With Kevin Costner and Mary McCormack. Director: Clint Eastwood.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN: (PG) A comedy. With John Cleese and Peter Cook. Director: Peter Cook.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

CRIMINAL MINDS: (15) A thriller. With John Cleese and Peter Cook. Director: Peter Cook.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY: (PG) A love story. With Kevin Costner and Mary McCormack. Director: Clint Eastwood.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

THE BROTHERS McMULLEN: (PG) A comedy. With John Cleese and Peter Cook. Director: Peter Cook.

Clapham Picture House: closed today (0171-498 3321) MCM Chelsea closed today (0171-352 5086) Odessa Kensington (01426 914866) West End (0171-915 5741)

CRIMINAL MINDS: (15) A thriller. With John Cleese and Peter Cook. Director: Peter Cook.

Village life is changing, but **Rodney Hobson** finds a familiar institution that can still be saved

Following in the family tradition

Pint and a postal order at the local that sells stamps

RACHEL PIMPERTON is the fifth generation of her family to run a sub-post office in Lincolnshire. So keen was she to follow the family tradition that last July she opened up in the front room of her home in Tooton All Saints about 13 miles north of Boston. The village people are quite used to buying their stamps in someone's home. The previous sub-postmaster had a similar arrangement at his bungalow.

Toytton, together with the neighbouring Tooton St Peter, boasts about 100 houses but no other shop apart from the post office.

Miss Pimperton says: "I get about 10 to 15 customers a day. Most of the people who come to me walk. They are mainly elderly people and it is too far for them to travel the two miles to the nearest post office at Spilsby. The job here was advertised and I thought I would do it. If I hadn't taken it on, the post office would have gone." The family tradition began when Miss Pimperton's great-grandmother took on the village post office at Swaby, further north along the A16.

Miss Pimperton, 23, was already working full-time with her father, the postmaster at Spilsby, a market town 12 miles from Skegness. She still puts in afternoon stints there. She says: "I was not always interested in running a post office. My dad had to force me to come to work at Spilsby when I left school. Now I thank him for it. I really enjoy my job."

CUSTOMERS can order a pint and a postal order at The Anchor public house in Gunthorpe near Nottingham. Jeremy and Amanda Scorer came to the rescue when the sub-postmaster retired and the post office closed.

Mr and Mrs Scorer, both in their early 30s, make an ideal couple to run a combined pub and post office. He worked in a pub with his father for seven years; she worked with her parents running a post office. They took over The Anchor eight years ago at the same time that Scottish & Newcastle bought Home Brewery, which supplied the pub. They like the village and, with two young children, are happy with the local schools. The population of Gunthorpe is less than 1,000 but it sustains four licensed premises, two pubs and two restaurants.

Mr Scorer says: "Trade is very seasonal. We are adjacent to the River Trent and it is a very popular fishing spot. We rely on the sunshine and the day trippers."

The Scorers bought the tenancy when they moved in and have a three-year tenancy agreement which is rolled over. They pay rent, reviewed every three years, for the fixtures and fittings, but buy their own carpets and chairs. Scottish & Newcastle owns the land and buildings. It is an arrangement that allows both sides the option of bringing the relationship to a close but one that gives them scope to invest for the future.

Mr Scorer says: "I am quite confident that the faith we have put in the brewery is not unfounded. They allow us sufficient security to do the work we want to do. We put

forward a plan for improvements and negotiate with the brewery. They know that improvements will increase the turnover. This year they paid for a conservatory on the front of the pub and a new car park."

The opportunity to make the pub even more of a social focal point cropped up when the village lost its post office. The Scorers turned an outbuilding that fronted on to the high street into a post office and general store. While conversion work was being carried out, Post Office Counters provided a mobile post office in the car park.

Mrs Scorer says: "When the old sub-postmaster sold his premises, we feared the village would lose its post office altogether so we put in a tender. It is an invaluable service. The nearest post office is less than a mile and a half away but there is no bus service. In any case, pensioners would rather have a walk down to our shop. It's a social visit as well as an essential one."

"The brewery was all in favour of it. They appreciated the goodwill it would create in the village and backed us 100 per cent."

The post office is open from 9am to 5pm for four days plus two half days and provides employment for a local woman. In fact, the Scorers are a major local employer, providing jobs for five full-time staff and up to 20 part-timers during the summer. Trade at the shop has gradually increased and the hot summer brought sales to boat trippers and campers. Plans to improve moorings on the Trent will help to secure the future of Gunthorpe's post office.



Post hosts: Jeremy and Amanda Scorer at their pub and post office

Keeping the heart of the community alive

CASH from the Development Board for Rural Wales helped to save the post office at Llangatwg, a village of 2,500 people off the A40 west of Aberystwyth.

Mike Powell, a Welshman who had been living in southeast England, returned to the Valleys under no illusions when he took over the premises. He says: "Rural post offices are always going to be fairly marginal and this was never going

to be a wonderful way of earning a fortune. I went into the project in quite a detailed way and drew up business plans. But I knew the village had fought hard to get its post office brought back."

Llangatwg lost its post office in January 1994 when the postmistress retired. The village suffered a double blow with the death of the owner of the only other shop there, a general grocery store. Mr Powell

felt there was a chance of making a living if he combined the two.

The development board made a grant to help with refurbishing and enlarging the old store, which reopened last January, offering the full range of postal services plus groceries, gifts, videos and an office.

The shop also acts as an agent for dry cleaning and flowers. Peter Saunders, chairman of the board's social and community dev-

elopment committee, justified the grant: "We are very aware that if communities are to be viable it is vital that this kind of project should be encouraged. The Llangatwg store has also offered part-time job opportunities for two local people."

But with the nearest post office less than two miles away at Crickhowell, Mr Powell is under no illusions that local people can shop elsewhere.

Top tips to put a smile on the face of Scrooge

Ebenezer Scrooge, the successful businessman who was ruined by an attack of conscience, lives on. Pens, light bulbs and even junk mail all provide opportunities for the tightfisted to save money.

Simon Chick, marketing manager at Company Barclaycard, says the drive to cut costs can be taken to extremes when companies are constantly seeking ways to improve cashflow and efficiency. He has drawn up a list of the oddest ideas that have been put to him.

He cites the case of a travel agency in the North East where each new member of staff was to be issued with one pen, one pencil and one notepad. Replacements would be issued only on proof that the old item had been used up.

A legal practice on the South Coast suggested passing all junk mail to an office junior who could separate any clear white unprinted sheets of paper. These could then be distributed round the office as scrap paper for jotting down notes.

Saving electricity taxes the minds of many companies. A mail order house in London proposed to issue staff with woolly jumpers and scarves during the winter months so the heating could be turned down. An accountancy firm in East Anglia figured that half the light bulbs could be removed from each room. The remaining 60 watt bulbs could be replaced with 40 watt.

A music publisher in Edinburgh hit on the notion of sending all the staff out to lunch at the same time so that the heating could be turned off for an hour. Only the office junior needed to remain to answer the telephone and shiver. This wheeze has the added benefit of preventing staff from making personal telephone calls during the lunchbreak.

A property firm in the Midlands planned to cut cleaning costs by allocating a space round each employee's desk which it would be their responsibility to clean. An alternative idea was to start a staff cleaning rota.

Cutting Post-it notes into three or four strips would radically increase the number of messages

that could be recorded on each pad, a public relations consultancy in the South East realised.

Really sneaky was the market research company in London that hit on the idea of filling empty mineral water bottles with tap water, placing them in the fridge overnight and presenting them to the staff next day as genuine mineral water.

The company said: "It will keep them cool in hot weather and make them think that the company is investing in their wellbeing."

Mr Chick says: "Although these tips are quite impractical, they do help to highlight the exasperation many firms feel when it comes to the need to save money. The list I have put together represents the more eccentric approaches to cost savings I have heard. Company Barclaycard would not recommend them as they could have a severe impact on staff morale. There are more practical ways of cutting costs without cutting quality."

"Two major black holes are expenses and petty cash. Money obviously needs to be spent on travel and entertainment but most companies are unable to track accurately who is spending what and where."

Company Barclaycard has launched a new procurement and payment system after running a pilot programme in 80 leading companies, including BOC, Lucas Industries, British Sugar and Anglian Water. The system allows companies to order and pay for goods without issuing purchase orders, reconciling invoices and making separate payments to suppliers. Alan Gooderham, director of Corporate Card at Barclaycard, says: "British companies spend over £37 billion a year processing purchase orders and authorising payment. Half of this, £18.75 billion, is spent on processing purchases for low-cost items with an average value of just £40. The goods and services being bought amount to £15 billion, almost £4 billion less than the cost of the administration involved."

RODNEY HOBSON



"It's another example of small business creating jobs - yours!"

THE TIMES TRAVEL OFFERS

ITALIAN CITY BREAKS

A WEEKEND IN FLORENCE

3 NIGHTS FROM JUST £259

DEPARTURES IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1996

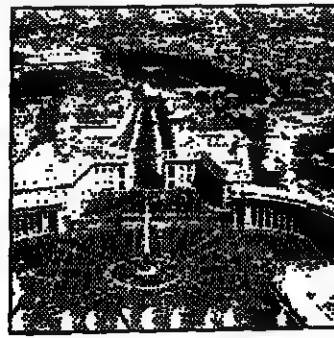
Stretching along the banks of the River Arno and overlooked by the Tuscan hills, Florence offers a wealth of architecture from the Renaissance period. Visit the Uffizi Gallery and many other museums which display masterpieces by da Vinci, Michelangelo and Botticelli. Alternatively, cross the ancient Ponte Vecchio and explore the most authentic quarter of this city or relax and browse through the many shops and boutiques around the piazzas. Optional excursions take you through the Tuscan countryside and Chianti vineyards to medieval Siena and San Gimignano.



A WEEKEND IN ROME

3 NIGHTS FROM JUST £259

DEPARTURES FROM DECEMBER 1995 TO MARCH 1996



Museums and monuments spanning over 2,000 years of history make this a superb weekend break in Italy's capital. There are so many architectural sights to discover including the ancient Roman Colosseum and Forum, the Vatican City and St Peter's Square. Visit Michelangelo's fresco in the Sistine Chapel and admire the view from the top of the Spanish Steps. Alternatively, browse in the exclusive designer shops along the Via Condotti or stroll through the gardens of the Villa Borghese to escape the bustle of city life. Optional excursions include a visit to the Frascati vineyards, a classical tour of the city or a chance to explore Rome by night.

THE PRICE FOR BOTH HOLIDAYS INCLUDES

- Scheduled flights from London Gatwick or Heathrow to Florence or Rome.
- FREE coach travel to the airport from selected pick-up points.
- Transfers between the airport and your hotel.
- Three nights accommodation in a four star city hotel with continental breakfast.
- A half day guided city tour.
- Services of a tour manager.

SEND FOR YOUR BROCHURE(S) TODAY

TELEPHONE FESTIVE HOLIDAYS ON

BROCHURE HOTLINE

0990 553355

or return the coupon below to:

THE TIMES ITALIAN CITY BREAKS OFFER,

FESTIVE HOLIDAYS LIMITED,

ACORN HOUSE, GREAT OAKS,

BASILDON, ESSEX, SS14 1AB

This holiday is operated by Festive Holidays, a company independent of Times Newspapers Ltd.

ABTA V106X ATOL 2172

Italian Cities Offer

Please forward me an itinerary and a booking form for

☐ FLORENCE WEEKEND

☐ ROME WEEKEND

Name (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

☐ If you do not wish to receive further information from Times Newspapers or companies specially selected by us, please tick the box.

THE

BUSINESS FOR SALE

MODEL AGENCY and school computer 'turnover' packages available throughout the UK from £40,000. For application details write to: **Bus For Sale**.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

IF YOU don't respond to this ad in 6 months you'll wish you had. The harder you work the more you earn. Full training given. Tel: 01237 582 784

CASH FLOW OPPORTUNITY

Part-Time Business • 4-6 Hours Per Week • Operate From Home • No Selling Involved • Small Capital Outlay • Full Training & Service Backup • Using Your Home PC • 12 Months Figure Available

For a FREE Informational Kit, please call: 01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

IF your 1996 Resolution plans include new UK & manufactured Aircraft, a lease (remuneration) through our Foreign Sales Corporation, may be beneficial to you. Please contact: **Business Opportunities** Tel: 01237 582 784

START A PROFITABLE IMPORT/EXPORT AGENCY

Can be operated from home, part or full-time. No capital/no risk. Send for your FREE Brochure.

Imp: Ex: Connections Tel: 01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

01237 582 784

BUSINESS SERVICES

No 1 OFFSHORE COMPANY SPECIALISTS

Full Nominee Management Accounting and Admin services available at reasonable cost

● ISLE OF MAN £250

● BAHAMAS £325

● BVI ISLANDS £325

● CAYMAN £650

● GIBRALTAR £250

● IRISH (NOMINEE) £225

● JERSEY £495

● MAURITIUS £225

● SEYCHELLES £225

● UK LTD £95

ALL CREDIT CARRIED ACCEPTED

For immediate service & our FREE 145 page full colour brochure call

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

01793 888106

Eeyore, Frank and Gromit, the three kings

The scene is Poets' Corner in Westminster Abbey, and Alan Bennett tactfully eavesdrops on the official guides leading the tourists — denominated by our waspish *Virgil* as "the tribes of Nike, Adidas and Reebok." Here we have the very famous Charles Dickens, says the guide briskly, as though the commentary is conducted from the top of a fast-moving bus and Dickens may just be glimpsed. "Also Thomas Hardy, another great name."

Bennett lingers silently at a distance, tilting his head, pursing his lips. In the modern psychological parlance, his style of presentation is "passive aggressive" — and if a model is required for this, think only of Eeyore, whom Bennett impersonates so well. Oh don't mind me, heavens no. No body minds me. I'm nobody. In the Lady Chapel he listens uncomfortably to marins, and tries not to squirm at the readings from the

Revised English Bible. "It ought not to matter to me," he confides in voice-over. "But it does a bit."

The Abbey (BBC2) was superb television for Christmas Day, and I will return to it later. But it was the casual reference to Hardy that struck me, for just half an hour before on BBC1 the shade of our greatest tragic ironist had obligingly scribbled up a storm for *EastEnders* (BBC1), when Frank returned to shatter Pat's equanimity on the happiest day of the year.

For *The Mayor of Casterbridge* and *The Return of the Native*, the Return of Frank ("What's this? No kiss for the old man then?") will go down in the annals. Anytime at home thinking their own Christmas was rotten should be ashamed.

EastEnders is congratulating itself these days on its long-term planning, and rightly so. When Frank turned up, all that frantic wall-papering fell promptly into place. With walls of pink and blue, Frank would hardly know his own home! For Christmas Day, Pat wore nice clothes and tasteful earrings. She was a different person! She was not Frank's "babe" Mike Reid wasted no time re-establishing himself and soon revealed that apology was not his strong point. "Look at me and tell me you don't love me," he said. She looked at him in disbelief. "I don't love you, Frank," she said.

W. I was in my house, we were quite wrong out. So we rewatched Nick Park's Wallace and Gromit in *A Close Shave* (BBC2) because it was simply the finest thing on over Christmas. In a *pass-up* between Gromit and Arthur Fowler falsely accused and languishing in a cell, Gromit is decidedly the more entertaining, since he reads *Crime and Punishment* by Fido Dogstovskiy. Whereas Arthur gripped his

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

jigsaw box and stared at the walls. Gromit completed his own puzzle to read a message inscribed on it: "Friday 17th at 8pm. Be ready. A friend." He looked at the calendar: Friday 17th! He grabbed his alarm clock: 8pm! He looked at the window: a sheep with a chainsaw was attacking the bars. "Be-e-eh!" said the sheep. (It kept doing that.) There is no need to rehearse the story of *A Close Shave*. Suffice to

say that the lovely Wendolene (voiced by Anne Reid) was a glorious addition, and that Gromit is still the finest comic actor in this country, especially when dangling from a bungee rope outside a window with his arms folded and his ears perpendicular. His reaction shots now have a Zen-like understatement, as when Wallace announces cheerfully at the controls of an infernal wool-machine, "We've tested this on Gromit, haven't we?" and Gromit's eyes assume a brief faraway look, at thoughts that lie too deep for tears.

Compared with such brilliant animation, ITV's *Wind in the Willows* yesterday afternoon was beautiful but flat, with the voicing actors given too little scope for vocal performance. Michael Palin's Rat had no cadence, no oomph. In fact the only character that came fully to life was Rik Mayall's Toad, which is not so much a recommendation as an indictment. The river sparkled and shone, but its two-dimensional charms were hardly adequate to compensate for the disappointment elsewhere.

Back at *The Abbey*, director Jonathan Stedall worked brilliantly with Alan Bennett to produce a thoroughly absorbing hour of history illuminated by a surprising passion. Not many people still smart about Henry VIII dissolving the monasteries but Bennett is one of them. A Japanese tourist bought coffee in a cloister. "This is all very enterprising," commented the aphoristic Bennett with his very best maiden-aunt inflections, "though I'm not sure Jesus would have approved."

Bennett has become the new Bejerman without anyone noticing. But come to think of it, that's how he does everything. He speculated on the elusiveness of Poets' Corner — perhaps it's a practical

arrangement for the Resurrection, so that on the Day of Judgment the writers needn't worry. "But will I know anybody?" In fact, they will be able to talk shop instantly. "Talking shop. That's the English idea of heaven anyway."

The *Abbey* continues tonight and tomorrow. As Christmas goes (and I've seen a few), this has not been bad at all. Even P.G. Wodehouse's *Heavy Weather* on Christmas Eve (BBC1) turned out well, once you'd got used to Peter O'Toole's outrageous, unforgivable Emsworth and the initial shock of the Blandings butler (Roy Hudd) referring blithely to "the drawing room". In *Heavy Weather* a publishing magnate, played here by Richard Johnson, pursues an author to his country retreat and pleads for his manuscript. "I beg you on behalf of the English language," cried Johnson. Golly, they don't make publishers like that any more.

7.00am Tales of the Tooth Fairies (r) (s) (5077220)
7.05 The Greedyhearts Gang (r) (s) (5076951)
7.10 The Snow Queen (r) (s) (2305171) 7.35
Opus and Bill (r) (2291711) 8.00 Fireman Sam (r)
(s) (5844303) 8.20 Playdays (r) (5894533) 8.40
White Christmas (3510775) 9.10 Peter Pan and
the Pirates (r) (5845973) 9.30 The
Legend of Prince Valiant (r) (5845973) 9.50
(1844442) 9.55 Eek the Cat (r) (4978152) 10.20
Reckless Breakers (r) (5845973)

10.45 FILM: Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying
Machines (1965). Family viewing. Star-studded
comedy, set in 1910 about a London to Paris air
race. Directed by Ken Annakin (5845973) (42605084)
12.50pm News (5845973) and weather (12967355)
1.00 Neighbours (5845973) (58962978)
1.20 The Two Ronnies. The 1987 Christmas show
(5845973) (58962978)
2.10 FILM: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade
(1989, PG) with Harrison Ford and Sean Connery
Satisfyingly brisk and lavishly-staged adventure.
Directed by Steven Spielberg (5845973) (3232336)
4.10 Disney Time with Michael Strachan (s) (5818797)
4.50 Final Score (1701688) 5.15 News (3175713)
5.25 Regional News (5845973) 5.30 Cartoon
(5845973)
5.40 Neighbours. Lou and Philip receive a shocking
suggestion from their boyfriend's trainer
(r) (5845973) (5818797)
6.05 FILM: Beethoven (1992, PG) with Charles Grodin.
An all-American family adored by a St Bernard dog. As
he begins to grow even larger, the father of the
family grows hostile, but everyone rallies round
when the dog is threatened by a dog snapper.
Directed by Brian Levant (5845973) (5818797)
7.30 EastEnders. Kathy is organising a birthday party
but she has other things on her mind; and Pat tries
to pick up the pieces but only succeeds in driving
people away (5845973) (s) (249)

8.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. Between the
Devil and the Deep Blue Sea.
(5845973) (58962978)
8.50 The Thin Blue Line. Yuletide Spirit. Comedy
series set in a police station under the command of
the inept Insp Fowler. (5845973) (4261313)
9.20 FILM: Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford.
Impassable but convincingly played thriller. Directed
by Phillip Noyce (5845973) (s) (7376797)
11.10 News (5845973) and weather (118404)
11.25 FILM: Clockwise (1986). Labour comedy
starring John Cleese as an obsessively punctual
headmaster who sets out to give an important
speech to a conference of headteachers. However,
the day goes from bad to worse when he boards the
wrong train and finds himself in an increasingly
hysterical race against the clock. Directed by
Christopher Morahan (5845973) (s) (1877155)
1.00am Linea Saveria. Victoria and
Albert. London (r) (22553)
2.00 Weather (5847195)

8.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. Between the
Devil and the Deep Blue Sea.
(5845973) (58962978)
8.50 The Thin Blue Line. Yuletide Spirit. Comedy
series set in a police station under the command of
the inept Insp Fowler. (5845973) (4261313)
9.20 FILM: Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford.
Impassable but convincingly played thriller. Directed
by Phillip Noyce (5845973) (s) (7376797)
11.10 News (5845973) and weather (118404)
11.25 FILM: Clockwise (1986). Labour comedy
starring John Cleese as an obsessively punctual
headmaster who sets out to give an important
speech to a conference of headteachers. However,
the day goes from bad to worse when he boards the
wrong train and finds himself in an increasingly
hysterical race against the clock. Directed by
Christopher Morahan (5845973) (s) (1877155)
1.00am Linea Saveria. Victoria and
Albert. London (r) (22553)
2.00 Weather (5847195)

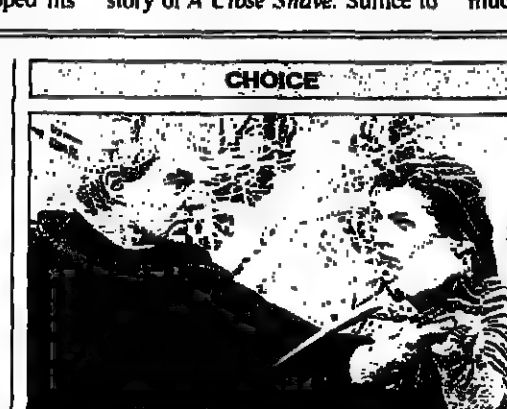


A time-warped love triangle (8.00pm)

8.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. Between the
Devil and the Deep Blue Sea.
(5845973) (58962978)
8.50 The Thin Blue Line. Yuletide Spirit. Comedy
series set in a police station under the command of
the inept Insp Fowler. (5845973) (4261313)
9.20 FILM: Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford.
Impassable but convincingly played thriller. Directed
by Phillip Noyce (5845973) (s) (7376797)
11.10 News (5845973) and weather (118404)
11.25 FILM: Clockwise (1986). Labour comedy
starring John Cleese as an obsessively punctual
headmaster who sets out to give an important
speech to a conference of headteachers. However,
the day goes from bad to worse when he boards the
wrong train and finds himself in an increasingly
hysterical race against the clock. Directed by
Christopher Morahan (5845973) (s) (1877155)
1.00am Linea Saveria. Victoria and
Albert. London (r) (22553)
2.00 Weather (5847195)

8.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. Between the
Devil and the Deep Blue Sea.
(5845973) (58962978)
8.50 The Thin Blue Line. Yuletide Spirit. Comedy
series set in a police station under the command of
the inept Insp Fowler. (5845973) (4261313)
9.20 FILM: Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford.
Impassable but convincingly played thriller. Directed
by Phillip Noyce (5845973) (s) (7376797)
11.10 News (5845973) and weather (118404)
11.25 FILM: Clockwise (1986). Labour comedy
starring John Cleese as an obsessively punctual
headmaster who sets out to give an important
speech to a conference of headteachers. However,
the day goes from bad to worse when he boards the
wrong train and finds himself in an increasingly
hysterical race against the clock. Directed by
Christopher Morahan (5845973) (s) (1877155)
1.00am Linea Saveria. Victoria and
Albert. London (r) (22553)
2.00 Weather (5847195)

8.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. Between the
Devil and the Deep Blue Sea.
(5845973) (58962978)
8.50 The Thin Blue Line. Yuletide Spirit. Comedy
series set in a police station under the command of
the inept Insp Fowler. (5845973) (4261313)
9.20 FILM: Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford.
Impassable but convincingly played thriller. Directed
by Phillip Noyce (5845973) (s) (7376797)
11.10 News (5845973) and weather (118404)
11.25 FILM: Clockwise (1986). Labour comedy
starring John Cleese as an obsessively punctual
headmaster who sets out to give an important
speech to a conference of headteachers. However,
the day goes from bad to worse when he boards the
wrong train and finds himself in an increasingly
hysterical race against the clock. Directed by
Christopher Morahan (5845973) (s) (1877155)
1.00am Linea Saveria. Victoria and
Albert. London (r) (22553)
2.00 Weather (5847195)



Derek Jacobi fends off Amelia Curdie (ITV, 8.30pm)

8.30am GMTV (8147404)
9.25 Mole's Christmas (r) (s) (8225404)
9.55 Telethon (s) (4933220)
10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Animated short film
(1286305)
10.50 FILM: The Snow Queen. A feature-length
animated version of the classic fairy tale featuring
the voices of Helen Mirren, David Jason, Hugh
Laure, Jill McKerrill, John Mayall and Imelda
Staunton (s) (7224930)
12.20pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (8185317)
12.30 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (78048)
1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (Part 2). The band's
summer show (Teletext) (s) (1960882)
2.05 FILM: Return of the Pink Panther (1975). Family
viewing, with Peter Sellers, Christopher Plummer
and Catherine Schell. Directed by Blake Edwards
(4262775)
4.10 FILM: Her Alibi (1989) starring Tom Selleck.
Paulina Portocarrero and William Daniels. A thriller
writer visits a courtroom and becomes so besotted
with a woman accused of murder he invents an alibi
for her. But after a series of near-fatal accidents his
confidence in her innocence is sorely tested.
Directed by Bruce Beresford (5845973) (3232336)
5.50 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (849133)
6.00 GoldenEye: The Secret Files. How was 007
restored to his position as the world's favourite
secret agent for audiences in the 1990s? (84065)
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. Terry confronts his
Christmas ideas, and a practical joke turns into a
nightmare for Butch and Sam. (Teletext) (7171)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People.
(Teletext) (s) (1046)
8.30 FILM: Cadfael: The Virgin in the Ice. Another
medieval mystery as Brother
Cadfael investigates the rape, murder and
enslavement in ice of a nun. (Teletext) (81336)
10.00 The Beatles Anthology. (5/6) The Fab Four
commence their spiritual journey with the Maharishi
and cope with the untimely death of Brian Epstein.
(Teletext) (8442)
11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (475201)

8.30am GMTV (8147404)
9.25 Mole's Christmas (r) (s) (8225404)
9.55 Telethon (s) (4933220)
10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Animated short film
(1286305)
10.50 FILM: The Snow Queen. A feature-length
animated version of the classic fairy tale featuring
the voices of Helen Mirren, David Jason, Hugh
Laure, Jill McKerrill, John Mayall and Imelda
Staunton (s) (7224930)
12.20pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (8185317)
12.30 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (78048)
1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (Part 2). The band's
summer show (Teletext) (s) (1960882)
2.05 FILM: Return of the Pink Panther (1975). Family
viewing, with Peter Sellers, Christopher Plummer
and Catherine Schell. Directed by Blake Edwards
(4262775)
4.10 FILM: Her Alibi (1989) starring Tom Selleck.
Paulina Portocarrero and William Daniels. A thriller
writer visits a courtroom and becomes so besotted
with a woman accused of murder he invents an alibi
for her. But after a series of near-fatal accidents his
confidence in her innocence is sorely tested.
Directed by Bruce Beresford (5845973) (3232336)
5.50 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (849133)
6.00 GoldenEye: The Secret Files. How was 007
restored to his position as the world's favourite
secret agent for audiences in the 1990s? (84065)
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. Terry confronts his
Christmas ideas, and a practical joke turns into a
nightmare for Butch and Sam. (Teletext) (7171)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People.
(Teletext) (s) (1046)
8.30 FILM: Cadfael: The Virgin in the Ice. Another
medieval mystery as Brother
Cadfael investigates the rape, murder and
enslavement in ice of a nun. (Teletext) (81336)
10.00 The Beatles Anthology. (5/6) The Fab Four
commence their spiritual journey with the Maharishi
and cope with the untimely death of Brian Epstein.
(Teletext) (8442)
11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (475201)

8.30am GMTV (8147404)
9.25 Mole's Christmas (r) (s) (8225404)
9.55 Telethon (s) (4933220)
10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Animated short film
(1286305)
10.50 FILM: The Snow Queen. A feature-length
animated version of the classic fairy tale featuring
the voices of Helen Mirren, David Jason, Hugh
Laure, Jill McKerrill, John Mayall and Imelda
Staunton (s) (7224930)
12.20pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (8185317)
12.30 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (78048)
1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (Part 2). The band's
summer show (Teletext) (s) (1960882)
2.05 FILM: Return of the Pink Panther (1975). Family
viewing, with Peter Sellers, Christopher Plummer
and Catherine Schell. Directed by Blake Edwards
(4262775)
4.10 FILM: Her Alibi (1989) starring Tom Selleck.
Paulina Portocarrero and William Daniels. A thriller
writer visits a courtroom and becomes so besotted
with a woman accused of murder he invents an alibi
for her. But after a series of near-fatal accidents his
confidence in her innocence is sorely tested.
Directed by Bruce Beresford (5845973) (3232336)
5.50 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (849133)
6.00 GoldenEye: The Secret Files. How was 007
restored to his position as the world's favourite
secret agent for audiences in the 1990s? (84065)
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. Terry confronts his
Christmas ideas, and a practical joke turns into a
nightmare for Butch and Sam. (Teletext) (7171)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People.
(Teletext) (s) (1046)
8.30 FILM: Cadfael: The Virgin in the Ice. Another
medieval mystery as Brother
Cadfael investigates the rape, murder and
enslavement in ice of a nun. (Teletext) (81336)
10.00 The Beatles Anthology. (5/6) The Fab Four
commence their spiritual journey with the Maharishi
and cope with the untimely death of Brian Epstein.
(Teletext) (8442)
11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (475201)

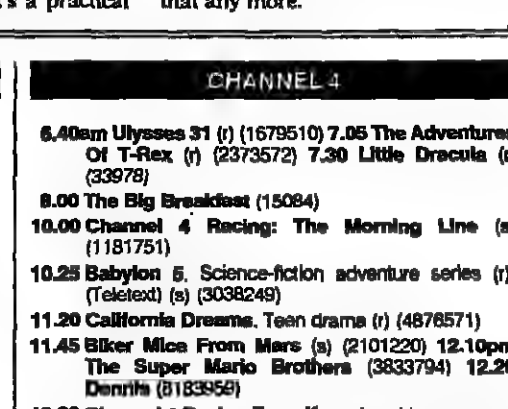
8.30am GMTV (8147404)
9.25 Mole's Christmas (r) (s) (8225404)
9.55 Telethon (s) (4933220)
10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Animated short film
(1286305)
10.50 FILM: The Snow Queen. A feature-length
animated version of the classic fairy tale featuring
the voices of Helen Mirren, David Jason, Hugh
Laure, Jill McKerrill, John Mayall and Imelda
Staunton (s) (7224930)
12.20pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (8185317)
12.30 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (78048)
1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (Part 2). The band's
summer show (Teletext) (s) (1960882)
2.05 FILM: Return of the Pink Panther (1975). Family
viewing, with Peter Sellers, Christopher Plummer
and Catherine Schell. Directed by Blake Edwards
(4262775)
4.10 FILM: Her Alibi (1989) starring Tom Selleck.
Paulina Portocarrero and William Daniels. A thriller
writer visits a courtroom and becomes so besotted
with a woman accused of murder he invents an alibi
for her. But after a series of near-fatal accidents his
confidence in her innocence is sorely tested.
Directed by Bruce Beresford (5845973) (3232336)
5.50 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (849133)
6.00 GoldenEye: The Secret Files. How was 007
restored to his position as the world's favourite
secret agent for audiences in the 1990s? (84065)
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. Terry confronts his
Christmas ideas, and a practical joke turns into a
nightmare for Butch and Sam. (Teletext) (7171)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People.
(Teletext) (s) (1046)
8.30 FILM: Cadfael: The Virgin in the Ice. Another
medieval mystery as Brother
Cadfael investigates the rape, murder and
enslavement in ice of a nun. (Teletext) (81336)
10.00 The Beatles Anthology. (5/6) The Fab Four
commence their spiritual journey with the Maharishi
and cope with the untimely death of Brian Epstein.
(Teletext) (8442)
11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (475201)



Unorthodox teacher Robin Williams (11.10pm)

8.30am GMTV (8147404)
9.25 Mole's Christmas (r) (s) (8225404)
9.55 Telethon (s) (4933220)
10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Animated short film
(1286305)
10.50 FILM: The Snow Queen. A feature-length
animated version of the classic fairy tale featuring
the voices of Helen Mirren, David Jason, Hugh
Laure, Jill McKerrill, John Mayall and Imelda
Staunton (s) (7224930)
12.20pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (8185317)
12.30 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (78048)
1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (Part 2). The band's
summer show (Teletext) (s) (1960882)
2.05 FILM: Return of the Pink Panther (1975). Family
viewing, with Peter Sellers, Christopher Plummer
and Catherine Schell. Directed by Blake Edwards
(4262775)
4.10 FILM: Her Alibi (1989) starring Tom Selleck.
Paulina Portocarrero and William Daniels. A thriller
writer visits a courtroom and becomes so besotted
with a woman accused of murder he invents an alibi
for her. But after a series of near-fatal accidents his
confidence in her innocence is sorely tested.
Directed by Bruce Beresford (5845973) (3232336)
5.50 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (849133)
6.00 GoldenEye: The Secret Files. How was 007
restored to his position as the world's favourite
secret agent for audiences in the 1990s? (84065)
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. Terry confronts his
Christmas ideas, and a practical joke turns into a
nightmare for Butch and Sam. (Teletext) (7171)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People.
(Teletext) (s) (1046)
8.30 FILM: Cadfael: The Virgin in the Ice. Another
medieval mystery as Brother
Cadfael investigates the rape, murder and
enslavement in ice of a nun. (Teletext) (81336)
10.00 The Beatles Anthology. (5/6) The Fab Four
commence their spiritual journey with the Maharishi
and cope with the untimely death of Brian Epstein.
(Teletext) (8442)
11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (475201)

8.30am GMTV (8147404)
9.25 Mole's Christmas (r) (s) (8225404)
9.55 Telethon (s) (4933220)
10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Animated short film
(1286305)
10.50 FILM: The Snow Queen. A feature-length
animated version of the classic fairy tale featuring
the voices of Helen Mirren, David Jason, Hugh
Laure, Jill McKerrill, John Mayall and Imelda
Staunton (s) (7224930)
12.20pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (8185317)
12.30 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (78048)
1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (Part 2). The band's
summer show (Teletext) (s) (1960882)
2.05 FILM: Return of the Pink Panther (1975). Family
viewing, with Peter Sellers, Christopher Plummer
and Catherine Schell. Directed by Blake Edwards
(4262775)
4.10 FILM: Her Alibi (1989) starring Tom Selleck.
Paulina Portocarrero and William Daniels. A thriller
writer visits a courtroom and becomes so besotted
with a woman accused of murder he invents an alibi
for her. But after a series of near-fatal accidents his
confidence in her innocence is sorely tested.
Directed by Bruce Beresford (5845973) (3232336)
5.50 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (849133)
6.00 GoldenEye: The Secret Files. How was 007
restored to his position as the world's favourite
secret agent for audiences in the 1990s? (84065)
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. Terry confronts his
Christmas ideas, and a practical joke turns into a
nightmare for Butch and Sam. (Teletext) (7171)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People.
(Teletext) (s) (1046)
8.30 FILM: Cadfael: The Virgin in the Ice. Another
medieval mystery as Brother
Cadfael investigates the rape, murder and
enslavement in ice of a nun. (Teletext) (81336)
10.00 The Beatles Anthology. (5/6) The Fab Four
commence their spiritual journey with the Maharishi
and cope with the untimely death of Brian Epstein.
(Teletext) (8442)
11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (475201)



David Bradley and his kestrel (8.00pm)

8.30am GMTV (8147404)
9.25 Mole's Christmas (r) (s) (8225404)
9.55 Telethon (s) (4933220)
10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Animated short film
(1286305)
10.50 FILM: The Snow Queen. A feature-length
animated version of the classic fairy tale featuring
the voices of Helen Mirren, David Jason, Hugh
Laure, Jill McKerrill, John Mayall and Imelda
Staunton (s) (7224930)
12.20pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (8185317)
12.30 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (78048)
1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (Part 2). The band's
summer show (Teletext) (s) (1960882)
2.05 FILM: Return of the Pink Panther (1975). Family
viewing, with Peter Sellers, Christopher Plummer
and Catherine Schell. Directed by Blake Edwards
(4262775)
4.10 FILM: Her Alibi (1989) starring Tom Selleck.
Paulina Portocarrero and William Daniels. A thriller
writer visits a courtroom and becomes so besotted
with a woman accused of murder he invents an alibi
for her. But after a series of near-fatal accidents his
confidence in her innocence is sorely tested.
Directed by Bruce Beresford (5845973) (3232336)
5.50 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (849133)
6.00 GoldenEye: The Secret Files. How was 007
restored to his position as the world's favourite
secret agent for audiences in the 1990s? (84065)
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. Terry confronts his
Christmas ideas, and a practical joke turns into a
nightmare for Butch and Sam. (Teletext) (7171)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People.
(Teletext) (s) (1046)
8.30 FILM: Cadfael: The Virgin in the Ice. Another
medieval mystery as Brother
Cadfael investigates the rape, murder and
enslavement in ice of a nun. (Teletext) (81336)
10.00 The Beatles Anthology. (5/6) The Fab Four
commence their spiritual journey with the Maharishi
and cope with the untimely death of Brian Epstein.
(Teletext) (8442)
11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (475201)

8.30am GMTV (8147404)
9.25 Mole's Christmas (r) (s) (8225404)
9.55 Telethon (s) (4933220)
10.20 The Forgotten Toys. Animated short film
(1286305)
10.50 FILM: The Snow Queen. A feature-length
animated version of the classic fairy tale featuring
the voices of Helen Mirren, David Jason, Hugh
Laure, Jill McKerrill, John Mayall and Imelda
Staunton (s) (7224930)
12.20pm ITN News and weather (Teletext) (8185317)
12.30 Emmerdale (r) (Teletext) (78048)
1.00 Take That at Earl's Court (Part 2). The band's
summer show (Teletext) (s) (1960882)
2.05 FILM: Return of the Pink Panther (1975). Family
viewing, with Peter Sellers, Christopher Plummer
and Catherine Schell. Directed by Blake Edwards
(4262775)
4.10 FILM: Her Alibi (1989) starring Tom Selleck.
Paulina Portocarrero and William Daniels. A thriller
writer visits a courtroom and becomes so besotted
with a woman accused of murder he invents an alibi
for her. But after a series of near-fatal accidents his
confidence in her innocence is sorely tested.
Directed by Bruce Beresford (5845973) (3232336)
5.50 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (849133)
6.00 GoldenEye: The Secret Files. How was 007
restored to his position as the world's favourite
secret agent for audiences in the 1990s? (84065)
7.00 Christmas in Emmerdale. Terry confronts his
Christmas ideas, and a practical joke turns into a
nightmare for Butch and Sam. (Teletext) (7171)
8.00 Michael Barrymore's My Kind of People.
(Teletext) (s) (1046)
8.30 FILM: Cadfael: The Virgin in the Ice. Another
medieval mystery as Brother
Cadfael investigates the rape, murder and
enslavement in ice of a nun. (Teletext) (81336)
10.00 The Beatles Anthology. (5/6) The Fab Four
commence their spiritual journey with the Maharishi
and cope with the untimely death of Brian Epstein.
(Teletext) (8442)
11.00 ITN News and weather (Teletext) (475201)

8.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. Between the
Devil and the Deep Blue Sea.
(5845973) (58962978)
8.50 The Thin Blue Line. Yuletide Spirit. Comedy
series set in a police station under the command of
the inept Insp Fowler. (5845973) (4261313)
9.20 FILM: Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford.
Impassable but convincingly played thriller. Directed
by Phillip Noyce (5845973) (s) (7376797)
11.10 News (5845973) and weather (118404)
11.25 FILM: Clockwise (1986). Labour comedy
starring John Cleese as an obsessively punctual
headmaster who sets out to give an important
speech to a conference of headteachers. However,
the day goes from bad to worse when he boards the
wrong train and finds himself in an increasingly
hysterical race against the clock. Directed by
Christopher Morahan (5845973) (s) (1877155)
1.00am Linea Saveria. Victoria and
Albert. London (r) (22553)
2.00 Weather (5847195)

8.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. Between the
Devil and the Deep Blue Sea.
(5845973) (58962978)
8.50 The Thin Blue Line. Yuletide Spirit. Comedy
series set in a police station under the command of
the inept Insp Fowler. (5845973) (4261313)
9.20 FILM: Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford.
Impassable but convincingly played thriller. Directed
by Phillip Noyce (5845973) (s) (7376797)
11.10 News (5845973) and weather (118404)
11.25 FILM: Clockwise (1986). Labour comedy
starring John Cleese as an obsessively punctual
headmaster who sets out to give an important
speech to a conference of headteachers. However,
the day goes from bad to worse when he boards the
wrong train and finds himself in an increasingly
hysterical race against the clock. Directed by
Christopher Morahan (5845973) (s) (1877155)
1.00am Linea Saveria. Victoria and
Albert. London (r) (22553)
2.00 Weather (5847195)

8.00 Goodnight Sweetheart. Between the
Devil and the Deep Blue Sea.
(5845973) (58962978)
8.50 The Thin Blue Line. Yuletide Spirit. Comedy
series set in a police station under the command of
the inept Insp Fowler. (5845973) (4261313)
9.20 FILM: Patriot Games (1992) with Harrison Ford.
Impassable but convincingly played thriller. Directed
by Phillip Noyce (5845973) (s) (7376797)
11.10 News (5845973) and weather (118404)
11.25 FILM: Clockwise (1986). Labour comedy
starring John Cleese as an obsessively punctual
headmaster who sets out to give an important
speech to

A PINT AND A
POSTAL ORDER
AT THE LOCAL

BUSINESS

TUESDAY DECEMBER 26 1995

ANTHONY HARRIS 34

THE TRUE COST
OF LIVING
REALLY WELL

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Whitbread to make £1bn agreed offer for Forte restaurants

By MELVYN MARCUS
CITY EDITOR

WHITBREAD, the brewing and leisure combine, is poised to enter the £3.3 billion Granada/Forte takeover fray with a £1 billion offer for Forte's restaurant operations.

Sir Rocco Forte, chairman of Forte, and Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread, are understood to have reached agreement in principle on Friday, although advisers have been finalising details over the Christmas

holiday. Official confirmation of the proposed deal is expected before trading resumes on the Stock Exchange tomorrow morning. Whitbread's offer is expected to emerge at slightly above £1 billion — a tantamount to a white knight play, with Forte dramatically wresting the initiative from Granada.

Under Takeover Panel rules, Forte has until January 2 to furnish shareholders with new financial information. A cash inflow of this magnitude would significantly affect Forte's debt level of £1.3 billion and leave the company with

various options to use in its defence strategy. High on the list must be the possibility of a special dividend payment in addition to the higher distribution already forecast. A share buy-back may also be under consideration. With Forte's proposed demerger overtaken by events, shareholders may be offered shares in the Savoy, in which Forte holds 68 per cent of the equity but only 42 per cent of the votes. The Whitbread development could signal an offer from a third party for Forte's Savoy stake. Forte and Whitbread, which is being

advised on the negotiations by Barings, are understood to have sounded out the Takeover Panel well before Friday's agreement. The sale will be subject to shareholder approval but will materialise only if Forte's shareholders reject Granada's offer.

Whitbread's £1 billion expansion play embraces Forte's 335 Little Chef outlets, 84 Happy Easter roadside restaurants and 26 Welcome Break motorway service stations. The deal also includes Forte's 112 Travelodge budget hotels, which would be absorbed into

Whitbread's Travel Inn operation. Forte's chain of 12 Wheelers restaurants are also in the transaction along with 52 Côté France roadside establishments.

Under Mr Jarvis's direction Whitbread has continued to diversify out of brewing and the Forte acquisition would thrust the company to the forefront of the popular restaurant market. Existing outlets include Brewers Fayre, Beefeater, TGI Fridays and Pizza Hut, the latter operated under franchise from Pepsi Cola. Earlier this year Whitbread acquired the David

Lloyd tennis centre chain and the UK franchise to operate Marriott Hotels. Indications are that Whitbread, with low gearing of just 22 per cent, will not require a rights issue to fund the acquisition, although an eventual cash raising exercise cannot be ruled out.

Granada's bid values Forte at 32p — 4p below Friday's closing price of 32p. The consensus among City analysts even before news of the Forte/Whitbread deal broke was that Granada would be forced to raise its terms — seen as little more than a sighting shot.

Eurotunnel to press for cut-price debt

By MELVYN MARCUS, CITY EDITOR

SIR Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, will make a statement to shareholders concerning the company's crucial negotiations with its bankers next month.

According to Sir Alastair, Eurotunnel hopes to be in a position to outline the "shape" of a solution. He emphasised, however, that even if agreement in principle is reached with the banks in the short term, detailed negotiations will extend well into 1996.

Eurotunnel effectively forced the issue of a financial restructuring last September when the company announced an 18-month freeze on interest payments — amounting to £2 million a day — on £8 billion worth of debt owed to a syndicate of 225 banks.

Inquiries by *The Times* indicate that Eurotunnel will press for a reduction in the company's gross overall interest rate of around 9½ per cent to nearer 7 per cent. Eurotunnel is expected to argue that an interest rate of 7 per cent or less is in keeping with the Anglo-French company's utility

status, enshrined in its 57-year concession to operate the cross-Channel project. At the same time, Eurotunnel's directors will claim that a 9½ per cent coupon is geared to project finance. The negotiations are being conducted with representatives of four agent banks, the NatWest, Midland, Banque Nationale de Paris and Credit Lyonnais.

Rumours persist that the Japanese members of the banking syndicate pose a potential threat to any agreement. Many of the 35 Japanese banks involved in the syndicate are reputed to be reluctant to make further provisions in view of their own over-stretched balance sheets. It is understood that the 35 banks account for about 20 per cent of Eurotunnel's debt, suggesting a maximum exposure of around £160 million. Sources close to the negotiations do not deny a problem but argue that £160 million is small in relation to Japan's banking crisis.

Eurotunnel, which suffered a £465 million loss during the first half, recently revealed a

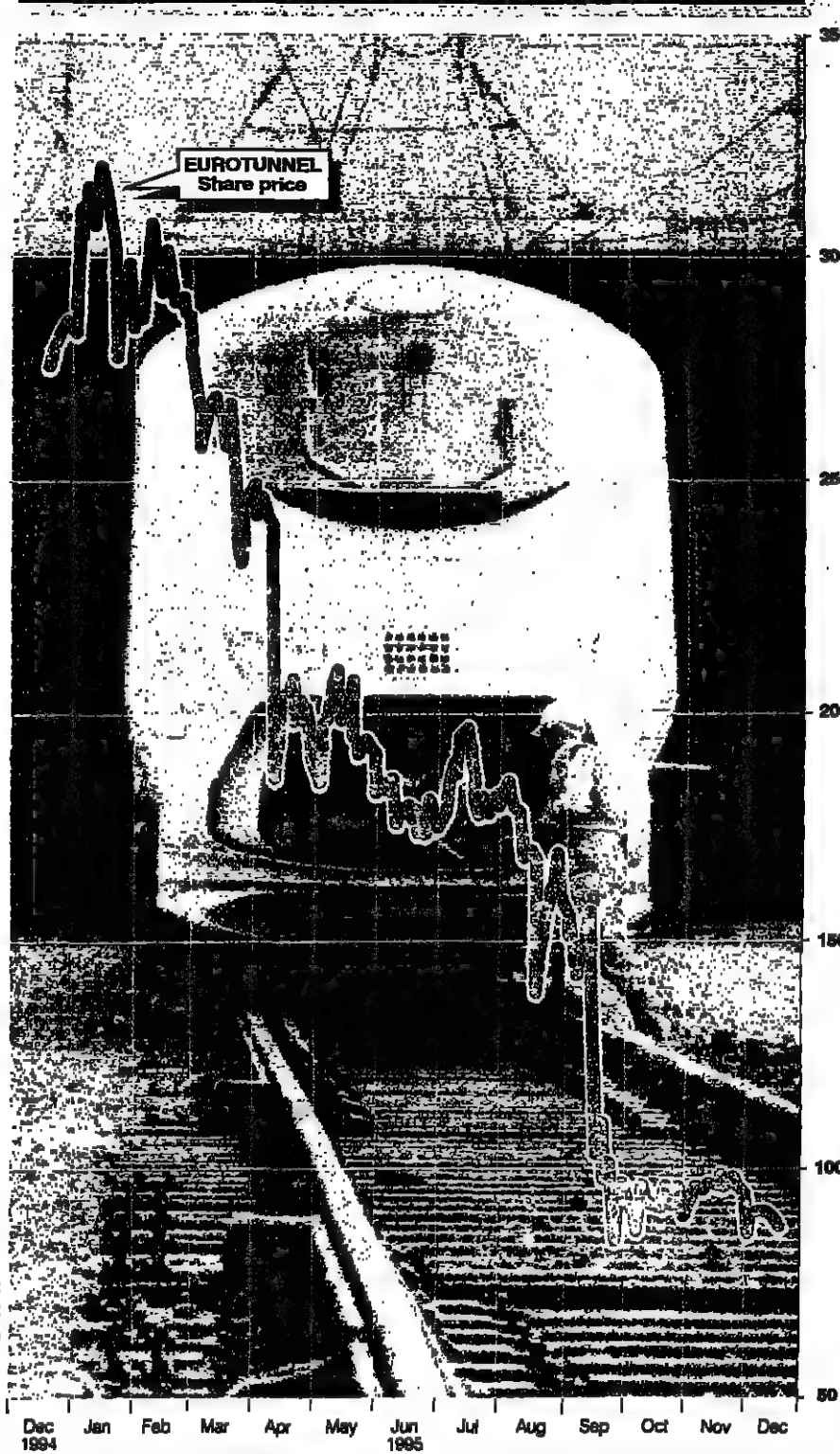
rise in revenues from £61.5 million in the second quarter to £81.3 million for the third quarter of 1995. This took nine-month revenues to £185.8 million, in line with the forecast that turnover for the year will amount to £275 million.

This is a far cry from the £525 million predicted in Eurotunnel's 1994 rights issue prospectus but the message from the company is that the year has ended on a high note. Eurotunnel achieved a new daily record when it transported more than 7,000 cars during the run-up to Christmas.

News, last October, of the International Chamber of Commerce's dismissal of Eurotunnel's £2.5 billion claim against British Rail and SNCF, the French railway, revived fears that Eurotunnel may yet be forced into administration should a solution not prove forthcoming early next year. The banks have little to gain from such action, which is complicated by the fact that UK and French insolvency laws are not compatible.

Interest centres around a French practice known as debt/creditor conciliation or "reglement amiable". This is based on a company's appointment of an arbitrator — subject to court consent — whose responsibility is to "invite creditors to conclude an agreement with the debtor". There are suggestions that Eurotunnel has pursued this course of action, but only in the context of a last resort.

EUROTUNNEL: SHARES COMING OFF THE RAILS



Queen drops in the power stakes

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

THE QUEEN was yesterday downgraded by the National Grid when, for the first time, power forecasters did not prepare to provide extra electricity after the Christmas message.

Shanti Majithia, head of demand forecasting at the electricity transmission company, said: "Demand has been dropping over the past couple of years and there was very little last year so this year we didn't think the power surge afterwards would be enough to form a pick-up."

TV pick-ups are sudden variations of power demand that are generated when people get up at the end of programmes or during commercial breaks to switch on kettles or lights.

They are estimated along with a range of other information in order to match power supply with demand.

The decision not to provide

for extra power for the Queen was made several weeks ago after the Grid's control centre scrutinised the TV programming for Christmas and compared previous demand peaks. While TV programming is closely monitored throughout the year by the Grid, it has an increased bearing at Christmas as electricity usage in other areas such as industry is at a virtual standstill.

Last year, the Queen's seasonal message created the lowest of the recorded Christmas Day variations in power demand at 300 megawatts which is equal to about 90,000 kettles being switched on. The recent *Panorama* documentary featuring the Princess of Wales caused a surge of 1,100 megawatts. The documentary on Prince Charles last year scored 700 megawatts.

British to a tea, page 34

Body Shop lorries drive home message

By SARAH BAGNALL

THE BODY SHOP is to continue painting pictures of missing people on the sides of its lorries to help to reunite families.

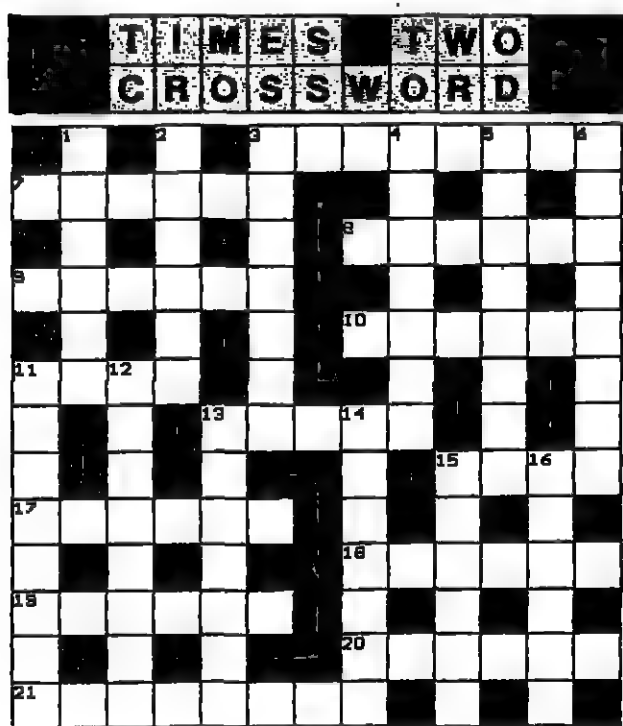
The eco-friendly cosmetic retailer is set to begin its second year of collaboration with the Missing Persons Bureau after a year in which three of the 19 faces that appeared on the company's lorries were found.

A spokesman for Body Shop said its foundation wanted to give some practical help, "so we came up with the idea of putting pictures on our fleet of lorries. These lorries go up

and down the country the whole time, from one corner of the country to the next. It was a very simple idea."

The scheme, which started in Christmas 1994, was extended in April by the organisations launching a file of missing people on the Internet.

A spokeswoman for the Missing Persons Bureau said the lorries had prompted lots of calls and several unconfirmed sightings. "Their support has been wonderful. The main thing is that it gives families tremendous encouragement and hope," she said.



No 661

- ACROSS**
- Arrangement: (right to) control (8)
 - Booze: regularly drink a little (6)
 - Thomas —, *Leviathan* philosopher (6)
 - Enrico —, tenor (6)
 - Eventually: not late (2,4)
 - Pais at: fingerprints (4)
 - A spiral (5)
 - Listen to: try (case) (4)
 - Walking egg agitatedly (6)
 - Coiffure (6)
 - Prosper (6)
 - Natural clothing fibre (6)
 - Three wickets at once (3,5)
- DOWN**
- Tropical, noisy insect (6)
 - Tubes for liquid: talks boringly (6)
 - Worshipful admirer (7)
 - Fabulous bird: Arizona capital (7)
 - Caption giving translation (8)
 - Auditor: a Saturday crossword (8)
 - Send (goods) (8)
 - Gambling card-game (8)
 - Royal house of the Georges (7)
 - With one's king attacked (2,5)
 - Lifts (6)
 - Very much so! (3,3)

SOLUTION TO No 660
ACROSS: 7 Aspen 8 Newgate 9 Put down 10 Totem 11 Rack 12 Bethesda 15 Distance 16 Pass 19 Sight 21 Ivanhoe 22 Work out 23 Dune
DOWN: 1 Pamper 2 Up sticks 3 Annoy 4 Twitchy 5 Cast 6 Hermit 8 Nondescript 13 Scathing 14 Bastion 15 Disown 17 Stereo 18 Caddy 20 Guru

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CHRISTMAS JUMBO 1995
ACROSS: 1 Ladybird, ladybird, fly away home 15 Isobars 16 Diversiform 17 Airless 18 Hippodrome 19 Laughs in one's face 21 Nonentity 23 Launderer 25 Tristan 26 Siskin 27 Arrogation 29 Jack Keich 33 Prerequisites 36 Outline 37 Surer 38 Neglects 39 Kilowatt 40 Establish 42 Turns over 43 Tiptoe 44 Unimised 47 Enemy 48 Brigade 49 North-easterly 50 Insistent 52 Sleepiness 54 Barset 57 Sea-song 60 Canal boat 62 Identical 63 Five o'clock shadow 65 Delighting 68 Eurasia 69 Prevaricate 70 Genetic 71 The light at the end of the tunnel
DOWN: 1 Laid hands upon 2 Droppings 3 Bravo 4 Restrain 5 Lady Mayoresse 6 Dove 7 Barracuda 8 Rain god 9 From strength to strength 10 Yemen 11 Whamot 12 Yardstick 13 Overcast 14 Eastern church 20 Blood toil tears and sweat 22 Noiselessly 24 Rejoiced 28 Isolation 30 Cheltenham 31 Terrifier 32 Cultivable 34 Eagerness 35 Showpiece 37 Subcontract 41 Artistic 42 The First Fleet 45 Egyptological 46 Chastisement 51 Stokowski 53 Promotion 55 Sacristan 56 Meringue 58 Adverse 59 Goliath 61 Leakage 64 Copra 66 Hindu 67 Dado

Investors seek to oust director of racing group

By ROBERT MILLER

AS the racing world prepares for one of the biggest days in its calendar, shareholders in Classic Bloodstock, the racing investment group that raised £3 million from 6,500 investors, are mounting an attempt to have one of the directors removed from office.

Among the tens of thousands of racegoers attending Boxing Day meetings, including the premier King George VI steeplechase at Kempton, are an increasing number of dissatisfied Classic investors. They have contacted *The Times* and the Jockey Club, racing's governing body, to express their concern at the way in which the company is being run and what has happened to their investment.

The Department of Trade and Industry investigated Classic this autumn after it failed to

file a report and accounts on time. The company confirmed that the DTI had asked for Maureen Moorcroft, a director and the wife of Classic's founder, Ron Dawson, to be replaced "by someone with more experience". Classic incurred an automatic £1,000 penalty from Companies House for late filing. This was paid on November 23. Companies House said last week that Classic had not filed its Annual Return Form, which was due on October 27.

Now investors want Tim Dawson, Ron Dawson's son, removed from office as a director. Cyril Bragg, a Classic shareholder, visited the company's Charnwood headquarters at Newmarket earlier this month "to check my investment". Mr Bragg, who has written to Companies

House and the Jockey Club to register his concern, said: "Tim Dawson was, to say the least, insolent and discourteous. The result of my visit was very negative and at the next annual meeting I shall propose his removal."

In 1990, Tim Dawson was "warned off" Britain's racecourses for a year for breaking Jockey Club rules by rendering a dud cheque for a horse at Southwell racecourse.

David Pipe, a director of the Jockey Club, said: "We have had a lot of letters and telephone calls from investors who are unhappy and concerned about the future of Classic Bloodstock and the way in which their money has been used." It is understood that officials at the Jockey Club are keeping "a close watch" on developments.

Vauxhall bypasses jams via Internet

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

VAUXHALL, the carmaker, has devised a novel approach to help people to avoid traffic jams. The company, which is owned by General Motors of America, has linked up with Trafficmaster, the traffic information company, to provide a nationwide system of up-to-the-minute motorway information on the Internet.

When the system goes live next week, users will be able to find details of traffic jams locally and nationwide to help them to plan their journey. The information comes from Trafficmaster's national network of sensors, which provide computerised details of traffic conditions. The Trafficmaster information is then converted and put on the Internet by IBM. Graphical support for the project is being provided by Love Howard Spink, the advertising agency.

Vauxhall was drawn to the Internet by demographics, its users being mainly 25 to 40 and male. Vauxhall estimates that up to 10 per cent of motorists have Internet access.

Wolfgang Schubert, marketing communications director, said: "Our strategy is to provide high-value information."

Vauxhall is also looking to line up a deal with Philips to provide route-finder information through its Internet pages.

Trafficmaster, set up in 1988, has created the first live traffic information system. It operates on the motorways and 400 miles of trunk road. It was floated in 1994 and is capitalised at £65 million.

Vauxhall's web page is at <http://www.vauxhall.co.uk>

Ringling in a busy new year

By SARA MCCONNELL

TELEPHONE banking services are poised for a busy new year as customers emerge from hibernation, fired with guilt about overspending and determined to get their financial affairs under control.

By contrast, staff had a quiet day yesterday, with the 40 working at First Direct, Midland's telephone banking arm, dealing with fewer than the 900 calls expected. Most were to check balances, some to report missing cards and a few to set up bill payments. At Barclays there had been 100 calls by mid-afternoon, most

to check balances. Lloyds had one panic call from a customer whose Christmas present cheque had been torn up when opening the envelope. Today is expected to be busier. Last year, NatWest had 5,000 calls compared with 2,000 on Christmas Day. First Direct, where Kevin Newman is chief executive, had 987 calls on Christmas Day and 4,396 on Boxing Day.

For the first time this year, all the main high street banks operated telephone banking services over Christmas. NatWest is to expand its Prime line service from January 2,



Mr Newman and staff member Helen Berry

AND SO TO BED

The Complete Bedroom Shop

SALE
Now On

The Gothic, Beautiful 5'0" Hand Forged Metal Bedstead in Pewter finish was £845 Now Only £675

London 0171 731 3593
Tunbridge Wells 01892 851 5999
Harrogate 01423 350 3060
Widnes 01623 552 5592
Edinburgh 0131 225 6998
Stourbridge 01527 437 4777
Kewick, Cumbria 01767 677 4281

Bedsteads of Brass

Wood

Cast Metal

Divan & Mattress Sets

Furniture & Bedlinens

ASTB Studios Ltd
Darlington 01524 598 1734
Middlesbrough 01642 223 0918
Newcastle 0191 261 6569
Grimsby 01462 535 257
Bath 01225 544 4554



Widowhood is a sure sign that marriage is alive

This has been the year in which marriage has been scorned, derided, and wilfully and destructively set upon: or so the detractors of Lord Mackay of Clashfern's proposed divorce Bill would have us believe. That marriage is, if not dead, then in the last stages of a slow wasting disease, is something of a truism of our age. And yet we would still see the widow as such a potent symbol of the institution of matrimony?

Perhaps the answer is yes. Perhaps we have in the past year latched so readily upon the image — the idea of Leah Rabin stoically, nobly carrying forward her husband's ideals — because we prize a union we fear is becoming extinct. Maybe, too, this explains our focus on the widow of the knifed schoolmaster Philip Lawrence, who is expected not so much to weep for her murdered husband but to speak for him.

But our fascination with the widow cannot just be seen as a marker, one way or another, of our collective view on marriage, although it obviously is linked to it. The widow as a public figure, from Jackie Kennedy to Leah Rabin, means something specific to us all. And it is significant too that the widow-as-public-persona, whom we respect, is in marked contrast with our attitude towards widows whose husbands have never occupied public space or the popular imagination.

These shadowy women — and this is a common complaint — are expected to all but disappear in widowhood: they feel themselves to be diminished, not just in their own eyes (which is grief talking) but in the eyes of others. It is only the widows of the famous who are deemed to grow in stature.

The power with which they are popularly imbued, however, is not quite theirs: for in carrying on the mantle of their late husbands they are also seen to assume something of them. "It's all very well that in marriage two people become

A woman weeping for her dead husband forms a potent image which suggests we have not yet given up on matrimony. But, says **Nigella Lawson**, it may also be that, having become alienated from the rituals of death, we want widows to grieve on behalf of us all

one," wrote Cicely Hamilton in her 1909 polemic *Marriage as a Trade*. "The question is, which one?" The question is all the more potent with regard to the state of widowhood. If traditionally speaking marriage involved a woman's identity being merged with the identity of her husband, then widowhood sees her being subsumed by it.

And yet the public role of widow is not merely as a cipher for the woman's late husband. The faces of Jackie Kennedy or Leah Rabin might immediately evoke their loss, the public loss — that's to say, their husbands — and yet they burn upon the public consciousness in their own right. They are no longer the other half, but an imposing whole. It is probably the only occasion in which a solitary woman is accorded so much respect.

It is not just that society's attitude changes towards the woman in question, but towards her whole life. In the Second World War, and in its aftermath, women were left bringing up their children single-handed, and they were praised for it, praised for raising, without a husband, children who were law-abiding and God-fearing. War-widows were seen as purveyors and keepers of the country's values, and esteemed for it. And yet a single mother now is shorthand for the decline of society, the plummeting morality of our



Leah Rabin, carrying on her husband's ideals

age. There is a discrepancy here. For if a woman in one instance may be capable of bringing up a child single-handed, why, in another, must she be so spectacularly catastrophic at it?

The reason for her husband's absence cannot itself explain her aptitude or lack of it for motherhood. The difference is that a widow has not chosen to be without her husband (nor, for that matter, have many divorced or abandoned wives) and therefore her virtue is not impugned. The woman who sheds her husband in less tragic circumstances must only have herself to blame, so no mercy. She's a bad woman, a bad wife, a bad mother.

The widow on the other hand, publicly at least, runs the danger of being recast as

saint. The grieving widow holding her family together is genuinely a heart-rending prospect, but the sympathy engendered is more than personal, it is instinctive on a symbolic level. The picture of the mater dolorosa is ingrained in our society: this is woman at her most elevated.

Widowhood shows women at their weakest — laid low by grief — and yet at their strongest too. Indeed, women are expected to be strong. When Leah Rabin gave interviews to the world's press, or was photographed at the funeral of her husband, what people wanted was not to see evidence of her suffering — not openly at least — but signs of her inspiring strength.

You could argue that women are valued for their strength here partly because they are seen as wounded, almost castrated. For a widowed woman is in some sense neutered: a woman with the sexuality taken away, but still bearing the imprint of a male. She is safe.

But that is not the only reason she is allowed to be strong, to be the rock rather than the one leaning against it. The weakness of women and the strength of men is one of the lies that we all seem to have some interest in perpetuating. Traditionalists argue that women's subservience to men is the natural order of things, and opponents of this

view merely respond that male dominance is inflicted unfairly and is not natural. No one stops to point out that anyone who has at any time had any intimate relationship with a member of the opposite sex knows that that's not how things are. Most husbands rely on their wives' strength, just as most wives recognise their husbands' otherwise carefully hidden vulnerability. Of course men and women alike are both strong and vulnerable, but in many marriages the great secret is that the woman provides the moral base, the ballast.

Widowhood blows this secret out of the water. It can no longer be hidden, and the widow must carry on the task she was expected to assume as wife. Most men, to some degree or other, rely on women to control the emotional and moral thermostat of their life together. And death, as much as birth, is seen as the business of women.

It is significant that at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral it was not only his wife who held centre stage, but his granddaughter, too. Now it's true that we are not afraid of weeping women, and are aghast at public displays of emotion by men. But that's not the only reason we latch more eagerly onto the grieving woman than to the bereaved man. For all the sobbing, we trust women to be able to handle death. They'll do it for all the rest of us.

Perhaps the most important reason we are impressed by and drawn towards the spectacle of the widow, almost as some mourning diva, is not because we no longer respect the rites of marriage but because we have in our lives become distanced from the necessary rituals of death.



The sad face of Jackie Kennedy evoked her own and the public loss of her husband

INSIDE SECTION

2

Need a break from turkey and telly? We list the top films and shows open this week. Page 31

Friendship

Now we feel part of the Rukba family and this is a great comfort.

Dorothy & Bill Howell

former owners of family business

This quote is just one testimonial to Rukba's work. Today too many elderly people are forced to live in poverty — or face the trauma of leaving their homes. Unfortunate circumstances have left them in need of urgent financial help.

At Rukba we are helping 5000 elderly people, who have devoted their professional or personal lives to others, to stay in their own homes by giving them a small regular additional income. Our network of 750 volunteers provides friendship and practical help.



Rukba

Helping elderly people stay independent

If you would like further information about Rukba's work and/or can help with a donation, please complete the coupon below. Extra funds are needed now to help more elderly people.

☐ Please send me more information

☐ I enclose my donation of £..... (cheque payable to Rukba)

Name..... Address.....

Postcode.....

Please send to: William Rathbone, Rukba, FREEPOST, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8BR. The Royal United Kingdom Benefactor Association, Reg. Charity No. 210729

'I almost miss house arrest'

Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi talks to Jane Drinkwater about freedom

AUNG SAN SUU KYI's crumbling villa is a new landmark in Rangoon. Travellers flock to see the legendary woman since they've heard she likes a tea-time chat with foreigners because it brings back memories of her 20 years in England. But since her release in July from six years' house arrest, Suu Kyi is too busy to reminisce about her days as an Oxford housewife. As the leader of the National League for Democracy she finds it demanding enough answering the needs of diplomats, party activists and journalists.

Here is a strange history. Her father, General Aung San, remains a national icon as the architect of Burma's independence from Britain. He was assassinated by political rivals in 1947. Suu Kyi was brought up in Burma, but went to Oxford at 19 to read politics, philosophy and economics. Later she married an Englishman and had two sons.

She returned to Burma in 1988 to nurse her sick mother. Appalled by the dire economic situation and the brutal military regime, she began campaigning for democracy. But when she criticised the dictator, General Ne Win, she was placed under house arrest, during which she won the Nobel Peace Prize.

Suu Kyi looks youthful for her 50 years. She is dressed in a lungi, a traditional skirt, and fitted blue silk bodice, her hair pulled back and decorated with a jasmine sprig.

"In some ways," she says, "I miss the house arrest. I would set myself tasks, but I never

got through everything. Now I have even less time. There were times when I did not have enough to eat," she says. "It was my choice... I did not want to accept anything from the authorities."

Her weight fell to six and a half stone, and she became malnourished. To cope with isolation, she adopted a strict regime of rising early, meditating and jogging on a running machine, a gift from her husband Michael Aris, of Oxford University.

Six years of house arrest have made Suu Kyi determined and resolute. They have also made her an emotionally impervious figure who refuses to talk about the pain of being separated from husband and children.

"Well, I did see my family. There was one point when I did not for about two and a half years, and then they were allowed in to visit. But how can I talk about what I went through as suffering? It is nothing compared to what many of my colleagues have gone through."

"They were in jail and had the constant worry of not knowing how the lives of their families were affected. I knew mine were safe in Europe."

When I ask her how it feels to be free, she becomes irritated. "I always felt free, even under house arrest," she says, "so this is a strange question for me. It was my choice to stay and to support the democratic movement. In any case I think it is far better to be under house arrest for a just cause than to be free and to be doing something else."

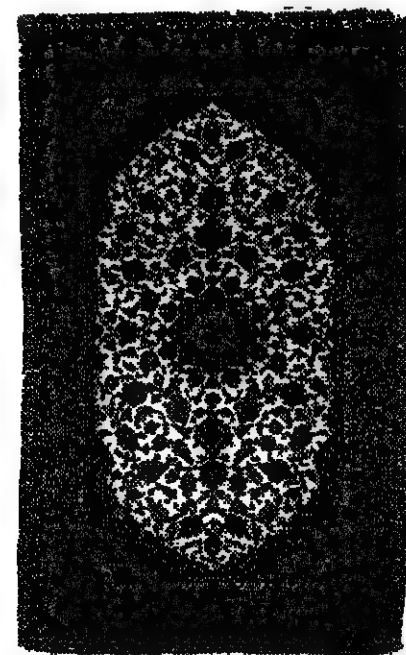


Suu Kyi: challenge to a dictator

GIGANTIC END OF YEAR SALE OF ORIENTAL CARPETS WITH UP TO 65% REDUCTIONS SALE STARTING TODAY

A few examples:

	WAS	NOW
Karadja 139 x 84cm (4'7" x 2'9")	£55	£29
Old Shiraz Kelim 212 x 132cm (7' x 4'4")	£168	£58
Mousel 205 x 107cm (6'9" x 3'6")	£250	£88
Hamadan Runner (Antique) 246 x 95cm (8'1" x 3'2")	£310	£98
Old Bachtar 202 x 135cm (6'8" x 4'5")	£425	£148
Nain 149 x 95cm (4'9" x 3'2")	£695	£198
Golden Afghan 301 x 230cm (9'10" x 7'7")	£1130	£395
Kashan 348 x 249cm (11'5" x 8'2")	£2195	£768
Isfahan 387 x 263cm (12'9" x 8'8")	£2550	£888
Sarouk Mahal 414 x 305cm (13'7" x 10'1")	£2850	£985



MON, TUES, WED & THU 10-7, FRI 10-2 SAT CLOSED, SUN & BANK HOLIDAYS 11-6.

AT - 1 Page Street, Fiveways Corner, Mill Hill, London NW7 2EL. Telephone: 0181-302 0002 by the turning of Watford Way to Copthall Sports Centre. NO PARKING PROBLEMS - PARK RIGHT OUTSIDE.

TEAMTRADE LTD. T/A ORIENTAL CARPET MERCHANTS

LONDON'S LARGEST RETAILER OF ORIENTAL RUGS.

ALL PURCHASES CAN BE EXCHANGED.

ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED.

FIRST 50 CUSTOMERS WILL RECEIVE A FREE BABY RUG.



As 1995 draws to a close, top *Times* writers choose the year's winners, losers, heroes,

The Times People of the Year



PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR AWARD

LIKE Myra Hindley's more recent excursion into confessional journalism, the *Dianorama* interview begs the same question: was it a manipulative act of image-control or the sincere outpourings of a troubled mind? The answer has since become all but irrelevant. For days after the interview, no one talked about anything else.

What the Princess of Wales achieved was to win from even those who considered themselves hostile the sort of grudging respect Margaret Thatcher seemed to inspire. In airing her grievances and concerns so publicly, the Princess appealed to the people, and had in them her best ally. And had it not been

for her *Panorama* performance, she would not be in such a strong position in regard to the divorce the Queen and the Prince of Wales feel is so devoutly to be wished.

Her genius is for the sudden conversion: even those who rank talking about the Royal Family on a par with discussing star signs are finding themselves eagerly joining the debate. Angling for people's hearts, but she seems to touch their minds, too. Royalists may worry about her effect on the institution of monarchy, but the *D-Hard* with a Vengeance act, as it has been dubbed, has ensured she remains big box office.

NIGELLA LAWSON



NO WAY TO TREAT A LADY AWARD

THE FACE of Estée Lauder was as strained as the couple's relationship at the premiere of Hugh Grant's film *Nine Months* this summer. Liz Hurley was making it clear that not even a top-haired heartthrob oozing upper-crust charm could get away with such a public display of downmarket philandering.

Grant's decision to consort with Divine, the Hollywood hooker, was no way to treat a lady like Liz Hurley, who said when she heard the news: "I felt like I'd been shot."

A close challenger for the award was the Roman Catholic-baiting journalist Christopher Hitchens, for his attack on Mother Teresa in his book *The Missionary Position*. He

argued that the ancient Albanian nun is "an anti-abortionist zealot parading as a conscience of the world's wealthy" who promulgates "a cult based on death, suffering and subjugation."

As for the Party of the Year, it began with Bollinger and blinis, then moved on to a dinner of lobster tails and fillet steak. Thrown by Sir James Goldsmith, it was to celebrate the wedding of his daughter, Jennima, to Imran Khan, and the guest list read like a cross between the *Sandringham* phone book and a supermodel's filofax. One final award for Hairstyle of the Year goes to Paula Yates.

P.H.S.



INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR AWARD

POST-Lottery tristesse... This time last year, we had just had the first big winner and the first media pursuit, a host of newborn jokes, and the meanest Christmas present ever devised. An old lady announced to her son: "I've bought a lottery ticket, and if I win you shall have half."

For a while, we giggled at Anthea Turner's torrent of balls, and thought it "good for charity". But before the five Lottery Funds had creaked into action, the arithmetic had begun to sink in. When Winston Churchill, MP, hit his personal jackpot, the nation winced; by summer, the pale figures queuing at terminals with their Giro money began to look a bit desperate.

Scratchcards added another drift of litter to our sad towns. Good-news winners were scarce: jackpots went either to the publicity-shy, felons or tabloid Love Rats whose ex-wives joyfully told all. Then Camelot got lucky with the Bensons of Hull: 37 years married, pleasingly awash with family values, all off-spring in work.

It wasn't enough. With charity and business takings down by billions, and countless organisations seething at having their bids turned down, the December scandals found us unforgiving. A short, bitter, affair it was: with a legacy of morose addiction.

LIBBY PURVES



PEACE PRIZE OF THE YEAR AWARD

PEACE carries a heavy price in the Middle East. Anwar Sadat paid the price in 1981. Yitzhak Rabin in 1995. Rabin was doomed as soon as he shook hands with Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn in September 1993.

Rabin was probably the only man who could have steered Israel toward an imperfect settlement with Palestinians. To fanatical right-wing Jews this showed weakness; to Rabin, it showed strength. He fought for Israel's independence, was Chief of Staff in the Six Day War, and, as Defence Minister in the late 1980s, told his troops to "break the bones" of Palestinian demonstrators.

Rabin chain-smoked, drank

whisky (in a society devoted to fruit juice) and was occasionally irascible. He conducted a life-long feud with his Labour rival and successor, Shimon Peres. On the eve of the Six Day War he suffered a brief nervous collapse.

Yet he went on to win a famous victory in 1967, and had the foresight afterwards to warn Israelis against euphoria, predicting that occupation would affect the occupiers as well as the occupied.

Rabin's slow, even ponderous, gravely voice inspired confidence, and it was precisely because of this that he could be bold in pursuit of peace.

RICHARD OWEN

IDEOLOGUE OF THE YEAR

FORGET Post-Thatcherism, forget the social market, forget New Labour and communitarianism: 1995 marked the return to favour of the most influential political scientist between Aristotle and Karl Marx, Alexis de Tocqueville. His anatomy of democracy has still not been bettered.

By setting the French revolutionary Directorate alongside the club politics of England and the "mob rule" of America, he tried to marry modern democracy to modern capitalism. His case for the American path was pragmatic and compelling. So too was his warning of the dwindling power of Europe's "intermediate institutions" to limit elective dictatorship. Tocqueville was the first communitarian, the first decentralist, the first systematic anti-socialist.

He warned against losing the "habit of association", of privatising our lives round family and friends beneath no other authority but the "immense and tutelary power of the State". Such atomised democracy, he said, would leave Europe open to the menace of socialist dictatorship. He was right. He still is.

SIMON JENKINS

BUILDING OF THE YEAR

LAST spring, amid a grove of trees on a hidden slope of the Sussex Downs, the doors opened on Uppark House. This glorious building had been recreated from the shell of the Georgian mansion gutted by a fire in 1989. For a long time the residence of the Featherstonehaugh family, it was owned by the National Trust and its destruction posed a challenge: to raise it and obliterate all trace of the structure, or piece it together again from 4,000 dustbins of rubble.

The answer was the most meticulous restoration ever. Each splinter of doorframe, each flake of plaster, each thread of silk salvaged from the ashes was cloned. Even the paint chemicals were recreated. The result is an English masterpiece brought back to life through the medium of craftsmanship. The nation's finest carpenters and masons, plasterers and carvers, painters and dyers, seamstresses, carpet makers, metalworkers and furnishes flocked to "reproduce" Uppark. They brought not artistry but that unsung talent, craftsmanship.

Those who deplore reproduction as pastiche should see

Uppark and marvel. This is what Britain does best — and should be proud to say so.

SIMON JENKINS

POLITICIANS OF THE YEAR

THE Great Survivor, John Major, is the political winner of the year. Battered at Westminster and written-off by the press, he confronted his critics one sunny afternoon in the garden of 10 Downing Street, and won. He only received the two to one backing of Tory MPs. But having skilfully neutralised Michael Heseltine, his most likely successor, beforehand, it was enough to end the increasingly self-destructive leadership



SERVICES TO SILICONE

PAMELA Anderson, the Baywatch babe, has been given a special award for services to silicone after the publicity she has given to breast augmentation. In fact, silicone implants are now being replaced by bags filled with salt water or soya oil. Soon it may not be so much a case of passing the salt, as making a pass at the salt.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

speculation. Six months on, however, it looks a wasted opportunity. Although his personal position has been strengthened, the Tories have failed to relaunch the political initiative from Labour. The Government still looks dazed and without clear direction, while its poll ratings are stuck in a deep trough. But Mr Major, whose demise has so often been predicted, remains there to fight a still unscathed Tony Blair.

The runner-up of the year is the man who dared and lost. John Redwood. A year ago, he was seen as a marginal member of the Cabinet who made earnest and often quirky speeches which annoyed his colleagues. But in late June Mr Redwood showed he had daring. After resigning from the Cabinet, he displayed flair, and a previously unseen light touch, in mounding his challenge.

Since then he has established himself as the leader of the Euro-sceptic right through a series of speeches and articles which have carved out an alternative approach. He is well-placed for a prominent position in the leadership, whether the Tories win or lose

tion for the taking, but disliked what was involved in running for President and stood on the sidelines — waiting for the summons from whomever is nominated.

PETER RIDDELL

TEAM OF THE YEAR

THE sporting highlight of the year came on a September evening in upstate New York when Faldo, Walton and the rest of Bernard Gallacher's unfancied European golfers overturned the mighty (and mighty cocky) Americans on their own turf. So my nomination for team of the year is the European Ryder Cup team. My runners-up would be the Benetton motor racing team. They might not have had the best car but they had the best driver and, crucially, the best team in the pits.

KEITH BLACKMORE

NOVELIST OF THE YEAR

IF endurance in the teeth of jeering critics made one *Times*

Novelist of the Year, Martin Amis would surely win hands down. Fortunately *The Information* — his masterly deconstruction of literary life — may just claim the title anyway. It is quite simply the funniest, as well as the cleverest, novel of 1995. Like his chief rival, Salman Rushdie (whose peppy *Parade of the Moors* is now banned in his native Bombay), Amis thrives on adversity.

The death of Kingsley Amis was a terrible blow to his son; but when Martin Amis's next novel appears, his loss may prove to be English literature's gain.

DANIEL JOHNSON

POET OF THE YEAR

NOT only the first Irishman to win the Nobel Prize for Literature since Samuel Beckett in 1969, Seamus Heaney is also the first poet to have become a household name in Ireland, North and South, since Yeats. He becomes *Times* Poet of the Year not only for his own achievements in verse, gathered in his *New Selected Poems*, but also for his vigorous public defence of poetry in his Oxford lectures, published as *The Redress of Poetry*.

DANIEL JOHNSON

TRADER OF THE YEAR

THE Streetwise Trader of the Year award goes to Nick Leeson, the 28-year-old from Watford who brought the once mighty, if a touch toff-nosed, Barings Bank to ruin with dealings on the Far East money markets. Barings got an £860 million debt mountain. Leeson got six and a half years.

MARTIN WALLER

DESIGNER OF THE YEAR

THIS year, wild-child fashion designer John Galiano could do no wrong. While his special brand of fantasy fashion continued to thrill, in July it was announced that he would succeed Hubert de Givenchy as the designer for the grand French couture house which had dressed the likes of Audrey Hepburn.

In October he was duly named Designer of the Year at the Lloyds Bank British Fashion Awards for the third time. At the ceremony Galiano, looking a cross between Disney favourites Captain Jack and Pocahontas, may have scared the living daylight out

of Deputy PM Michael Heseltine (who presented him with the trophy), but the long ovation proved he was the popular vote.

IAIN R. WEBB

DISCOVERY OF THE YEAR

BY cooling atoms to within a whisper of absolute zero, physicists in 1995 created a new form of matter. Instead of behaving as individuals, the atoms of rubidium gave up their individuality to become a collective governed by the rules of quantum physics. The Bose-Einstein condensate, as this state is called, was predicted by Einstein and the Indian physicist Satyendra Bose 70 years ago, and achieved in Colorado by a team from the US National Institute of Standards and Technology and the University of Colorado. Science named it Molecule of the Year — an irony, as it is not a molecule.

NIGEL HAWKES

ARTIST OF THE YEAR

THE winner is Damien Hirst. He carried off the Turner Prize he famously turned meat into metaphor with his "cow piece" *Mother and Child Divided*; he achieved the remarkable feat of getting the tabloids to discuss the meaning of art; and to some experts his startling work said something profound about our existence. The runner-up is: The cow. Let's not forget her contribution.

RICHARD MORRISON

DISEASES OF THE YEAR

WHEN I started on *The Times*, my first account of what is now known as Aids was never published. Its symptoms were considered too unpleasant for *Times* readers to contemplate at breakfast. We are tougher now and this year three horrendous diseases have caused a shudder with the marmalade and toast during the year.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the human equivalent of "mad cow" disease, is inevitably fatal, usually within a year. Cases seem to occur by chance, although there may be a vague family history. In other patients it has followed neurosurgery, corneal transplants, or the use of growth hormone derived from the post-mortem room. Disease which starts years after infec-

tion destroys both the physical and mental powers of the brain. There is the progressive loss of all the senses so that the patients end their days blind, deaf, imbecile and with an existence rendered appalling by paralysis in which the limbs are subject to painful, crippling spasms.

Necrotising fasciitis, the flesh-eating disease of the tabloids, is caused by the rapid spread of, initially, streptococci, and later a mixed bag of anaerobic and other bacteria in the subcutaneous tissue which becomes red, swollen and gangrenous. Wide excision and antibiotics with fluid replacement saves about 70 per cent of cases.

The third ghastly disease this year has been Ebola fever of Zaire and Sudan. Spread is

fresh to the character of James Bond, that Jurassic relic of political incorrectness, along comes the twinkling Irishman Pierce Brosnan and gives the series new life and sparkle. Brosnan's delivery of the one-line quips in *Goldeneye* rivalled Connery at his peak. Runner-up: *The Princess of Wales*.

RICHARD MORRISON

SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

FOR most of the decade, Stratford School in east London has been making headlines for all the wrong reasons. Almost closed for lack of pupils and blighted by highly publicised wrangles

among its governors, examination results collapsed and the school was subjected to "special measures" after a damning inspectors' report.

This year, at last, there is light at the end of the tunnel. A seven-fold increase in its GCSE pass rate since 1992 made it one of the 100 most improved schools, the inspectors returned and Stratford came off the failing list. An unheralded success, but a triumph against the odds.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFFORD

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

IN less than two years Oasis have transformed a moribund British rock scene into something approaching its former world-class glory. (*What's The Story Morning Glory?* is the biggest selling British album of the year. As the group's sole songwriter and mastermind, the lion's share of the credit must go to Noel Gallagher. His songs appeal to fans across the board and the generations.

DAVID SINCLAIR

ACTOR OF THE YEAR

JUST when you thought that nobody could bring anything

when defence lawyer Johnnie Cochran gripped O.J. Simpson after the "not guilty" verdict was read out. This court case made the Guinness trial look snappy. It also made millions of the lawyers, a laughing stock of Judge Lance Ito, and left the victims' families determined to sue O.J. Dominick Dunne pronounced American justice dead.

Quentin Letts

DEBATER OF THE YEAR

THERE were no memorable debates in 1995. There were some memorable votes, memorable divisions, tense expectancy and memorable results, but the debates themselves were of a fairly uniformly low standard. Malcolm Rifkind, the new Foreign Secretary, has been better than expected, and two newcomers to the Cabinet, William Hague (Welsh Secretary) and Michael Forsyth (Scottish Secretary) have impressed at the dispatch box in Questions this year. But Forsyth put in an embarrassing performance in the famous fisheries debate which the Government narrowly lost.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has been widely feted for winning the exchanges with his Shadow, Labour's Jack Straw, over the sacking of the Director of Prisons; but Howard — though wonderfully brazen, as ever — caught Straw on a bad afternoon. Labour front-benchers have been reliably dull, Tony Blair sparky but faintly unconvincing.

Asked to name a debater of the year, I would refuse. Forced to name a debater of the year, I would nominate Robin Cook. Labour's Foreign Affairs spokesman is now the best parliamentarian on either front bench. He had no chance to shine in 1995, but his class always showed.

JOHN O'LEARY

FILM OF THE YEAR

KEN LOACH's film *Land and Freedom* ripped the Spanish Civil War out of the history books and made it relevant to today's fractious world. And it showed one of Britain's finest film-makers (always more appreciated abroad) widening his scope, venturing into the European epic without sacrificing his commitment to people, their faces, follies and dreams.

For runner-up: Ed Wood. Who said you couldn't make good art out of bad art? Tim Burton fashioned a wonderful

film from the life of Ed Wood Jr., one of the worst directors ever to work in Hollywood.

GEOFF BROWN

EMBARRASSMENT OF THE YEAR

MY nomination for embarrassment of the year was a tiny incident, unimportant and scarcely noted. It did its victims no harm but is amusing for the light it sheds on the way our ding-dong method of debate distorts the brain of those who participate. Challenged by Tony Blair at PM's Questions to list his achievements as Prime Minister, John Major began to reel off a list of statistics demonstrating how much the economy had improved from the dire state in which he inherited it. He was interrupted by laughter. He had forgotten from whom he had inherited the economy. Mr Major was Mrs Thatcher's Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MATTHEW PARRIS

DEBATER OF THE YEAR

THERE were no memorable debates in 1995. There were some memorable votes, memorable divisions, tense expectancy and memorable results, but the debates themselves were of a fairly uniformly low standard. Malcolm Rifkind, the new Foreign Secretary, has been better than expected, and two newcomers to the Cabinet, William Hague (Welsh Secretary) and Michael Forsyth (Scottish Secretary) have impressed at the dispatch box in Questions this year. But Forsyth put in an embarrassing performance in the famous fisheries debate which the Government narrowly lost.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has been widely feted for winning the exchanges with his Shadow, Labour's Jack Straw, over the sacking of the Director of Prisons; but Howard — though wonderfully brazen, as ever — caught Straw on a bad afternoon. Labour front-benchers have been reliably dull, Tony Blair sparky but faintly unconvincing.

Asked to name a debater of the year, I would refuse. Forced to name a debater of the year, I would nominate Robin Cook. Labour's Foreign Affairs spokesman is now the best parliamentarian on either front bench. He had no chance to shine in 1995, but his class always showed.

MATTHEW PARRIS

صكنا من الاصل

zeros, saints and sinners for awards — some serious, some firmly tongue-in-cheek

MAN OF THE YEAR

Tony Blair

TWO experienced Tory politicians were recently discussing the sad outlook for their party. One thought the next general election was already lost, probably by a large majority. The other believed it could still conceivably be won, even if that was unlikely. The optimist then turned to the pessimist and said: "But don't you agree, we would still win if Tony Blair were to die?" The pessimist replied that in that case the general election would be in the bag.

Tony Blair has been the most effective opposition leader for 20 years and he is the leading British politician of 1995. The Tories beat old Labour in the past four general elections, and there is still a folk memory that when old Labour was last in power they made a thorough mess of things — rather like the mess the French are making now. Neil Kinnock did quite a lot to reform the old Labour Party, but it retained its ancient character, even if it was wearing a red rose and a new suit of clothes. John Smith came from the right wing of the old Labour Party. New Labour has been Tony Blair's creation and would not have happened without him.

Undoubtedly, new Labour attracts voters for whom the old Labour Party was unthinkable. The Labour Party always had some support from middle-class intellectuals but it was based on mass trade unions and the industrial workers. To large sections of the middle class the unions seemed more of a threat than natural allies. Tony Blair, partly because he is so clearly middle-class himself, has

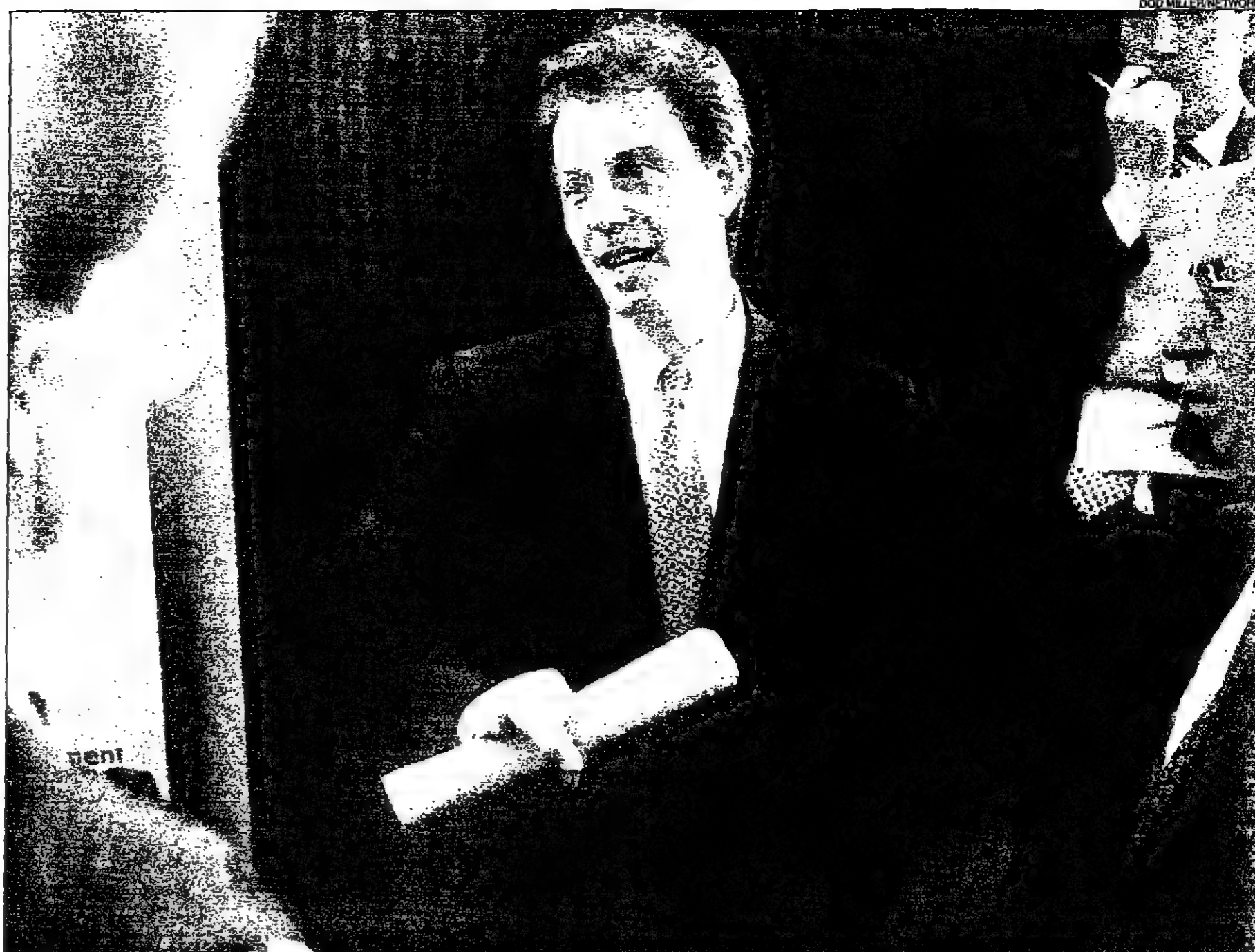
removed most of that fear. He has also understood the new technological professionals of the electronic age. He knows what the new middle class wants, and that reassures the old middle class as well.

Throughout 1995, Tony Blair has kept up the pressure on the Government. Repeatedly, after John Major's leadership election and again in the autumn, it looked as though the Conservatives might be about to start a recovery. Each time it faded rapidly, partly because Tony Blair maintained the momentum of the Opposition. Whether he can keep it up through 1996 nobody can yet say, but his technical performance as Leader of the Opposition has been skilful. He combines the virtues of Hugh Gaitskell and Harold Wilson, and may be the best Leader of the Opposition the Labour Party has ever produced.

There is, however, still a universal doubt. Tony Blair has been almost too lucky a politician. He has fought stage-managed battles such as the one over Clause Four but he has not been tested by real difficulty. Obviously, John Major has been tested repeatedly. Tony Blair has been lucky partly because he has been skilful, but nobody can tell how he will react under great shocks and reverses. People also doubt that old Labour is really dead; they think it is only sleeping. Tony Blair has established himself as the new St George of new Labour but the old dragon of old Labour still seems to be ready to breathe fire.

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

He may be
the best
Leader of
the
Opposition
ever



Tony Blair has been the most effective opposition leader for 20 years and he is the leading British politician of 1995. New Labour has been his creation



And the nominees are: (from left) Cherie Booth (runner-up, Outfit of the Year), Paula Yates's hairstyle, fat cat Cedric Brown, cows (mad or otherwise), the superlative Simon Rattle, peppery Salman Rushdie and sidelined Colin Powell

SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR

JONATHAN EDWARDS won the gold medal for the triple jump in the world championships in Gothenburg, breaking — shattering, more like — the world record twice in the process. More to the point, this modest, church-going man gave the drug-ravaged world of athletics an unfamiliar touch of grace.

KEITH BLACKMORE

BAD SPORT OF THE YEAR

ERIC CANTONA (who else?) gave new meaning to crowd participation when he jumped into the crowd at Selhurst Park, the Crystal Palace ground, in January, and his words and deeds, on and off the pitch, kept us on the edge of our seats. In another year, the American tennis player, Jeff Tarango, would have run away with this award for the volley of abuse directed at a Wimbledon umpire, which earned him disqualification and lasting infamy.

KEITH BLACKMORE

SHAREHOLDER OF THE YEAR

PETER DAWE, whose company, Unipalm, was taken over by UUNET, the American Internet company, last month could qualify as entrepreneur or dealmaker, but his role as continuing shareholder rather than bailing out and enjoying the spoils makes him special. The company was founded with £7,000 nine years ago and, when the sale was

agreed, was valued at £90 million, with Mr Dawe holding £22 million of shares. By the time the deal was completed it was worth £152 million and Mr Dawe had a shareholding worth almost £40 million.

Mr Dawe has 1,000 business customers and is looking to the future rather than counting his winnings.

LINDSAY COOK

DEAL OF THE YEAR

THE audacious £9.4 billion Glaxo Wellcome merger in January was masterminded by Sir Richard Sykes and set in motion tremendous upheaval in the pharmaceutical industry and a year of megadeals in the City, bringing back bonus cheer to many dealmakers. In late December the company raised \$1 billion by selling its stake in Warner Wellcome.

LINDSAY COOK

FAT CAT OF THE YEAR

CEDRIC BROWN, chief executive of British Gas, rose to notoriety when he was awarded a 75 per cent pay rise to £475,000 in 1994. This year he suffered the indignity of a 30-stone pig being named Cedric for the day of the company's annual meeting. But he has received more compensation with enhanced pension arrangements said to be worth £3.4 million.

Hamptrey the Cat, who went awol from No 10 this year in search of better scoff, is of course runner-up.

LINDSAY COOK

BEST REASON FOR NOT GOING OUT

LONG-AWAITED gloves-off version of *Pride and Prejudice* by Andrew Davies held the nation in narrative thrall and made even the quadrille seem sexy. Colin Firth as all-fencing, all-swimming, all-taking-a-bath Mr Darcy attained national dreamboat status. People invited out on Sundays made wild excuses such as: "Damn, I find I have an X-ray appointment."

LYNNE TRUSS

AND...

BEST reason for preferring an X-ray appointment: *Castles*, BBC's middle-class soap opera conducted entirely by telephone. Typical line: "Mum! I've been trying to phone you!" The televisual equivalent of a barium meal. *Castles* lay dead in the water, wrapped in telephone flex and weighed down by directories. Best scene: Anna Cropper standing at mirror, adjusting her scarf, before answering phone.

LYNNE TRUSS

AND...

MOST famous TV personality unknown to millions until news story broke: news that Michael Barrymore was gay preceded for many people the news that Michael Barrymore existed. Conclusive proof of cultural two-nations effect with regard to game shows. Efficiently disconnected Jonathan Ross's Autocue at British Comedy Awards. Bliss.

LYNNE TRUSS

DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

IN HIS second year in charge of the Royal Court Stephen Daldry has put that theatre back at the centre of the theatrical map. He has nurtured a handful of superb new

playwrights, launched the "Royal Court Classics" season in the West End, and also directed some of the most talked-about productions in Britain. Next year: director of the National Theatre? Mark Rylance is runner-up; his *Macbeth* was probably the worst ever seen since Peter

OUTFIT OF THE YEAR



NOTHING came close to Colin Firth and those trousers. Breeches to be precise, as worn by Fitzwilliam Darcy, hero of the BBC adaptation of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. The sight of Firth wearing bottom flap, fall-front breeches sent women everywhere into fainting fits. The Regency dandy's preference for a snug fit added to the garment's charm. Runner-up: Cherie Blair.

IAIN R. WEBB

CONDUCTOR OF THE YEAR

While other British orchestras stumbled into the financial mire, Sir Simon Rattle's City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra went from strength to strength, and its festival of 1940s music was the artistic high point of the VE-Day anniversary celebrations. In addition, Rattle made superlative forays into "authentic" music with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment.

RICHARD MORRISON

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

WITHOUT quibble, the trophy must go to Symbian Pandora. Not, despite its name, a new Euro-hatchback but a new animal altogether, discovered only two weeks ago by sharp-eyed marine biologists.

I make this award unhesitatingly because Symbian Pandora, although it lives on the lip of a lobster, has developed two penises. This seems to me to be so moving an example of unshakeable optimism in the face of imminent disaster that I cannot think of Symbian Pandora without weeping.

ALAN COREN

BUSINESSMAN OF THE YEAR

SIR BRIAN PITMAN, the unassuming chief executive of Lloyds Bank, has had a brilliant year. In August the takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society was completed with 300,000 investors receiving bonuses of up to £14,044 each. The lead bank in the Canary Wharf failure with £52 million at risk, Lloyds escaped with virtually no losses when the deal to sell to a consortium including Prince al-Waleed bin Talal was completed before Christmas. On Thursday the merger of Lloyds and TSB will be completed, making it the second largest banking group in the UK. Crowning the year for shareholders is a rise from 55p at the beginning of the year to more than 84p with profits likely to top £1.5 billion for the full year.

LINDSAY COOK

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

WHEN Richard Budge bid £300 million more than his nearest rival last year to secure the majority of British Coal many thought the gamble would not pay off. But after a year of setting new production records, rising profits and coal prices, the early repayment of half the company's borrowings, bonuses for miners and a soaring share price, few doubters are left. His biggest test will be in 1998 when the fixed contracts to supply coal to power generators are renegotiated.

LINDSAY COOK

RADIO PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

JOHN INVERDALE, the thinking woman's hunk, has done more than anyone else to make the revamped Radio 5 Live listenable. Inverdale, known as Des Lynam-in-waiting, straddles sport and general presenting with consummate skill. Wooden spoon award to Talk Radio UK, which fired its "shock jocks" for being shocking.

PETER BARNARD

CHEF OF THE YEAR

JEAN-PIERRE XIRADAKIS of La Tupina in Bordeaux has bloody-mindedly ignored every kitchen fashion of the past 15 or 20 years. He has dedicated himself to the conservation of southwestern cooking in general and Bordelais cooking in particular. I have no doubt that the English jobsworths who ply their trade in the name of Hygeia would take one look at his carnal forge and close him down. The French are wiser.

JONATHAN MEADES

SPECIAL AWARD

LONDON headmaster Philip Lawrence was brave enough to stand up against the encroachment of US-style gang violence in British schools. At best, his death will force the issue of the legality of knife-carrying. At the very least, it will make people appreciate their own families this Christmas.

GILES COREN

SALE

The Burberrys Sale starts Wednesday 27th December. Open 10am-7pm.

LONDON: Haymarket; Regent Street; 2 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge.

SCOTLAND: Princes Street, Edinburgh.

Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Union Street, Aberdeen.

Halifax Place, Jersey

For mail order information please telephone 0171 930 7803.

Burberrys

OF LONDON



SOME OF OUR EXCELLENT REDUCTIONS INCLUDE:

	Original Price	Sale Price
Ladies Classic Raincoat	£395	£235
Ladies Trenchcoat	£495	£295
Mens Classic Raincoat	£395	£235
Mens Trenchcoat	£525	£295

Matthew Parris



■ The truth about the past is more vivid in a thousand little details than in any formal history

LOST, said the notice, "a large BLACK DOG, answering to the name of Sweep. Whoever will bring the same to Mr Maggs, stationer, or 44 Westbourne-terrace north, shall receive TWO POUNDS REWARD."

I read this, absorbed, at a little bookshop in the village of Cromford, Derbyshire. It was in Cromford, beside the River Derwent, that Richard Arkwright set up his first mill. The Industrial Revolution may be said to have started there.

Scarthin Books had asked me to call in for a couple of hours before Christmas to sign copies of my new book. The event coincided with the opening of their new in-house cafe, and so the occasion was a small celebration. To mark it, the proprietor, Dr Mitchell, had purchased an antique copy of *The Times*, the edition of Thursday, September 11, 1856.

I love small bookshops. They will have to fight hard for survival now that cost-cutting is allowed in the book trade, but I hope they will always be a place for establishments like Dr Mitchell's. He will make an effort to find things, and keeps a good stock of second-hand books. He does a little publishing on the side, too. He has just published a guide to all the pipe-organs still in existence in all the churches and chapels along the Derwent Valley. He knows he may lose money on so specialised a venture, but believes such a work ought to exist. In fifty years it will be invaluable. I have not the least interest in wind organs but admire that spirit immensely, and so sat, sipping the cup of the fresh-ground coffee brought proudly to my table, pleased to be there, and hoping a few people would come along and buy my book.

But most of all I was fascinated by that *Times*.

"TOT.R.S. — T.R.S., who left Park-street on the 26th of July, is earnestly entreated to COME HOME, or to write and let his parents know where he is. His absence causes them the deepest distress. He will be kindly received by all his friends and if he returns home at once an arrangement can be made for his going abroad." This, like the notification of the lost dog, Sweep, is on the front page of the newspaper.

Writing on this page, Alan Coren once referred to the discovery on Box Hill of an abandoned Saxon yew bow. It had snapped. No doubt it had been thrown down in disgust, covered by time, and had lain undisturbed for perhaps a millennium and a half. Coren said that this report caused him that neck-tingling sense of history which all the information in the world about great past events fails to excite. A peep back over

No doubt the world news was thought of more enduring interest — but is it?

the centuries to what was then the daily round can be breathtaking.

And so it was for me, with that *Times* of Thursday, 11 September 1856.

"LEFT his HOME — If the YOUTH, who left on Sunday morning last to go to Hampstead, will RETURN HOME at once all will be forgiven."

Why did he leave? Did he ever come back? Oh, how I long to know, how I long to be able to picture him. And wasn't £2 a big reward for Sweep? Why, too, was a promise of "arrangements for his going abroad" an inducement to T.R.S. to come home? Had there been a family row about his wish to do so, causing him to storm off anyway?

When the decision was taken, more than a hundred years later, to place the classified columns of *The Times* on the inside pages, and promote the home and foreign news to the front, it was no doubt defended on the grounds that the world news was of more enduring interest.

But was it? Sipping my coffee I turned to the inside pages. There was an interminable report from Erzeroum about the "Evacuation of Kars" and an account of the French Emperor's visit to the Pyrenees. A census was being taken in Ireland, while "we yesterday learned, by letters from Bucharest, that Prince Ghika had departed from his resolution to maintain the status quo, as bequeathed to him by Stirbey, and changed his Ministry".

Yes, yes. Fascinating, no doubt. But on the front page: "ELIZA WADE, who offered to go to India with a lady (who has mislaid her address) is informed, through this advertisement, that if she APPLIES immediately to Mr. W.W., chemist, Mortlake, the SITUATION is still OPEN." And a little white Skye terrier called Bobby, tipped with slate colour, has been lost and is desperately missed at 5, Marlborough Hill Gardens, St John's Wood.

And I know it mattered about the Kars, and the Emperor, and the census in Ireland, and if I cared enough I could find out how each of those stories ended. But I shall never know if Bobby was returned to Marlborough Hill Gardens.

Sweep is long dead. Did he die a stray? Did the lady who offered to accompany Eliza Wade ever contact her, and did they go to India? How did they like it there? Did T.R.S. ever go abroad, and did he prosper? Did the youth who went to Hampstead ever come home? Just for a moment, sipping my second Scarthins' coffee, and little caring whether anybody bought my book, I wanted to know these things more than I can say.

Those who hunt — or shoot, or fish — have a right to know what Labour intends, writes Nicholas Budgen

Labour should come clean about hunting



The Duke of Beaufort's Hunt will be meeting today

If you go to the Boxing Day meet today, you will want to forget politics. Sadly, though, hunting may be important at the next general election. There are about half a million people who support hunting by following the hounds. Their wish to continue to hunt raises issues of wider concern to the whole nation.

To this half-million, hunting is an integral part of life. I cannot tell you why. This morning as I pull my boots on, I shall reflect on how expensive, how irrational and yet how vital to me hunting has been for 50 years. So it will be for many people today. Most people who hunt are unpolitical. Being left alone in their sport is central to the way they live. To use an expression of Tony Blair's, "it is part of a deep sense of community".

Hunting is the activity around which much of the social life of the countryside is organised. For every day's hunting there are 20 or 30 ladies preparing teas and organising hunt fundraising activities. Politicians might remember that while ever fewer people now join the main political parties, hunting gains in numbers every year.

For these people, hunting is the key issue. If they are reassured on this by Labour, they may go on to vote tactically or even to support Labour. In calling hunting people unpolitical, I do not mean they are uninterested in broad issues or do not vote. Since hunting is an activity for all sections of the community, some of them are much more likely to vote Labour than people, say, who play polo.

There are not many people who are strongly opposed to hunting. It is true that many feel as I feel about shooting: they do not like it, but they don't want to stop others enjoying their disgusting habit. The exception to this general rule are the hunt

saboteurs. They are very few in number, but very determined. The less dedicated of them have diminished in numbers and effectiveness in the past two hunting seasons.

Police certainly now have more powers to deal with saboteurs. But I suspect also that for some radicals, sabotaging hunting was a way of expressing disagreement with the then dominant and all-powerful Tories under Margaret Thatcher. They may not feel quite so oppressed now.

However, serious saboteurs vote Labour and always will. Labour's approach to field sports is unfortunate, and the half-million people who support hunting deserve a more honest explanation. If this interest group is conned, then there is a risk that another million people — those who shoot — may also be conned; and then another three million — those who fish — may in their turn be conned.

The latest official Labour statement comes in a "consultation document" from April this year, which promises "a free vote in the House of Commons to ban hunting with hounds".

Under the heading "Enjoying the countryside", the document reads: "We support the work which is under way with national shooting and fishing groups to establish codes of best practice in both these sports. We recognise that shooting is often the most appropriate, humane and selective method of controlling pest species, as well as being integral to

game management. We also acknowledge the contribution of carefully managed shooting to the conservation of wildlife habitat.

"One kind of countryside enjoyment Labour cannot endorse — hunting with hounds. A Labour government will make Parliamentary time available for a free vote on the abolition of fox-hunting, deer-hunting and hare-coursing with dogs." If this means anything, it means

that Labour will give government time to a Bill to abolish hunting. If such time is given, hunting will end. It will be the tyranny of the majority and a scandalous reversal of the conventions of Parliament.

But Labour's position is ambiguous. There is within the party a group called "Leave Country Sports Alone". This includes Melvyn Bragg, Lord Donoughue, Jeremy Isaacs and Sam McCusky. About 12 Labour MPs are

also said to support the views of this group.

Their most effective speaker is Lady Mallett, QC. She is charming, forceful and witty. She is a Labour frontbench spokesman in the Lords for legal and home affairs. She is, or ought to be, as much bound by the conventions of her position as Clare Short was when she was forced to accept that she could not speak as a free spirit on drugs.

In July, I heard Lady Mallett speak in Worcestershire. The audience of hunting people wanted to believe her. She said that there was no commitment by Labour to give Parliamentary time for a Bill to stop hunting. If there is no commitment, the anti-hunting lobby has been conned; if there is a commitment, then Lady Mallett was behaving very badly. First, she was misrepresenting Labour policy to an audience which longed to be reassured. Second, she was as guilty as Clare Short of stating her own view and not that of the party. This is inconsistent with her frontbench position.

Parliamentary time is the key to all this. Does Labour draw a distinction between time for a vote and time for the whole Bill? It hardly matters what individual parliamentarians do or think about hunting. If a government respects the conventions of the House, no private member's Bill opposed by a substantial number can reach the statute book. They fall through opposition and lack of time, as Mr McFall's Bill failed recently. What we want to know is whether Labour would give government time to an anti-hunting Bill? If it would, the way of life, and the sense of community of much of our countryside is threatened.

The author is Conservative MP for Wolverhampton South-West.

Bread-and-butter truths

The Queen makes us believe that duty must overcome selfishness



Bah, humbug. All right, I admit it: I had a dream, which lasted all the way to the lull in yesterday morning's festive racket when I sneaked away to write this. In my dream, a natty sports car sped up the winding roads to Sandringham in the clean empty dawn of Christmas Day: its solitary driver pausing only at South Mimms service area to stock up on presentation packs of horse-shaped chocolates and executive jigsaws. When at last it pulled up a long, long drive, a voice from the driving seat said: "Er — Merry Christmas, OK?"

Pathetic. I know. Dickensian, even. I suppose I hoped for the Princess of Wales to have an overnight visitation by three ghosts led by Lord St John of Fawsley in a luminous periwig, and to wake on Christmas morning like Ebenezer Scrooge, hearing the bells and knowing that if the world is to make any progress you have to swallow your bile and forgive everybody who has cheated and insulted you. In the dream, her feminist analysis and therapy-speak gave way to the grim but bracing awareness that what the truly "strong" woman does at Christmas is to brave up and pull a cracker with relatives who drive her, at times quite literally, insane.

Just a dream; but luckily, it matters not a jot. I turned on the Queen's message at 9am on Radio 4 (so much more dignified than the televised version) and enjoyed the usual Christmas miracle. In an age of presentation and public relations, sound-bites and spin, the high, flat, plain delivery of the Queen falls like a blessed silence on the roaring, hooting motorway of the media. It is possible that over the years she has been urged to liven up her act; wisely, she hasn't. If there is a "still small voice", this is what it sounds like: not

low and thrilling but dispassionate, unaccompanied, verging on dull; a voice saying plain, true, unchanging things.

Hearing the Queen, all those chattering — whether from the Dr Raj Persaud school of remote-control psychiatry or the stable of "constitutional experts" with not a lot to say — who have waxed feverish about the whole Diana-Panorama-Charles-Camilla-Dimbly-Somes-divorce imbroglio, were reminded how insignificant it really is against the wider picture of the world and even of the monarchy.

The gift of the royal broadcast is its reminder that she is not just the Queen of this week but of long years past and future: the heiress and ancestress of centuries. Fascinating though it is, the failed royal marriage is not even the most significant royal event of this year. That happened in the park during the VE ceremonies.

Libby Purves

when the country underwent an astonishing upsurge of genuine popular joy in Britishness and affection for the wartime generation; a moment when generations danced and cheered together as the monarch, beaming gloriously, pushed the laser button to illuminate the Telecom Tower. The Queen took palpable comfort and delight from the good-humoured roaring of the great crowd fifty years on: and spoke yesterday of pride also in the long-awaited tribute to the Far East veterans: "Duty

endurance; these are her lifeblood.

Not only military duty. She spoke as usual of the work of ordinary, unpraised people: told us that peace is better than war, that making peace and healing war is hard work. Of course there was no mention of the coming divorce: what on earth is the relevance of cross, spoil Charles and cross, troubled Diana, compared to the Burma veterans of yesterday, the Bosnia volunteers of today, and the Sister Ethel who patiently set out to teach the dispossessed children of South Africa under a spreading tree? Such people, said the Queen in her unemotional tones, are doing something, making things better. When her own family do anything as much worth talking about, then she may mention them on Christmas morning. Otherwise, not.

The point is not that it was a good performance by the Queen, but that it was no performance at all. She

believes these things. Like her daughter, she values practical, reliable help above emotional gush; and knows that ordinary people's instincts for good do more than lavish celebrity gestures. She knows that, as George Eliot said, the fact that things do not go as badly as they might is due largely to those who "live faithfully a hidden life". The Queen may be herself immensely rich and privileged; she may be surrounded by some dangerously pompous and snobbish advisers and family members; but she knows what is what. And, on Christmas day, she says it: "The work for peace is never-ending. It is achieved by quiet and determined effort... people who go quietly about their business in dangerous circumstances... with modesty and a sense of humour."

The wonderful thing is that, while politicians writhes and posture and her own children scramble for cheap PR points, the way the Queen's own eyes are fixed on the simple bread-and-butter truths of life draws a response directly from those ordinary quiet workers all over the world. She spoke of her recent meeting with war-zone volunteers: a few days before Christmas in the documentary about her doomed yacht Britannia, we saw her greeting President Mandela, Sister Ethel and the rest and also saw how the Royal Marines beat the retreat steadily in the pouring rain and the crew, tough-looking specimens with sobriquets like Red Hot Ricky and Swampy Marsh, polished day and night to keep the royal ship immaculate. They did it, as all our ceremonial rank and file do it, not for money or sycophancy. They do it because somehow, the conjuring-trick of monarchy makes it all hang together: spit-and-polish, duty and pride, history and hope, hidden lives and the idea that slowly, painfully, but surely the world will grow safer and Britain will help more than hinder.

It may be no more than an illusion. The Queen's words of peace may be followed by not only family acrimony but a collapse of goodwill in Belfast, Bethlehem, Bosnia, everywhere. But the point is that she believes, and on Christmas day makes us believe, that duty and altruism must in the end, overcome selfishness and chaos. Send her victorious.

Swansong?

A NEW problem to disturb the Boxing Day walks at Sandringham is flapping its way across the Atlantic. The Canadian city of Ottawa has decided it can no longer afford to keep the swans which were given to the city council by the Queen in 1967.

Every summer since then, the royal swans have thrived and multiplied, to glide majestically up and down Ottawa's waterways. But with recent budget cutbacks, the city council says it cannot justify the £15,000 needed annually to keep the birds and their descendants, which snuggle into a special heated home when the rivers freeze over in winter.

The council's switchboard has been jammed and its postbags are bulging. Rather than get rid of the swans, the councillors have decided to donate them to a zoo. Councillor Joan Wong, a hard old bird, says the outcry shows that people care more for birds than other human beings in need at Christmas. Another council source says: "They are inedible, so we have to find them a home. We need corporate sponsors."

But residents such as Nora Ban-



Digging 'em out

ford, 82, are appalled that the city can't find the cash. "It would be an insult to Her Majesty to get rid of the swans, after all the trouble this year with her terrible children."

● New year celebrations will be starting late this year — one second late to be precise. According to the biffins at New Scientist, this will be to account for a slowdown in the Earth's rotation. One "leap" second will be added to the last minute of 1995.

Last time

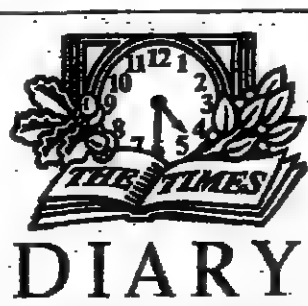
THE PRINCESS OF WALES would be wise not to dwell on the fate of the wife in the most recent divorce among her husband's forebears. They were the parents of Prince Albert, Duke Ernest of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and Luise of Gotha.

King Leopold of the Belgians said that Luise, a great beauty, had been corrupted by Persian poetry when she took a lover.

Duke Ernest, himself something of a reprobate, banished his wife and her paramour to Paris, and she never saw her two sons again.

Sharp Claus

THE SCARLET FACE of the film director Ken Russell flushed an angry shade of purple on his recent trip to icy wastes for a photo-opportunity with Santa Claus. With his wife Hetty and two-year-old son,



Rex, he travelled to Lapland as a guest of the gloriously glossy, *Hello!* Despite the cheery pictures of snowbound frolics, his family endured "a Christmas lunch prepared over a fire", which turned out to be tinned soup, a Spam roll and pancakes served on plastic plates. And the reindeer farm consisted of six beasts giving 30-second rides.

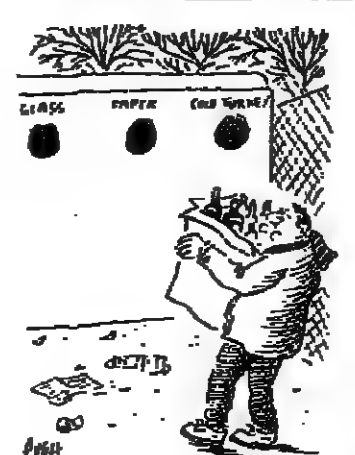
Off and on

AS THE Princess of Wales digested the Queen's request for a divorce, her stepbrother Henry Legge was getting spliced. On Thursday last week, at the Grosvenor Chapel in London, he married Cressida Hogg, in the presence of about 40 relatives, including his mother, the former Raine Spencer, and Dame Barbara Cartland.

"The bride carried a little white muff," says Dame Barbara. "And I wouldn't have minded one myself because it was so cold. I should have worn my fur but I'm too afraid to these days," she says, referring to the anti-fur lobby. The couple had a party at Syon Lodge, home of the Duke of Northumberland. "I didn't go to that," admits the doughty Dame, "I'm too old." Never.

Leadership

WE ARE lucky to have Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, the



new commander of international forces in Bosnia. But for a disagreement with the headteacher at the school where he taught as a young man, he might even now still be organising games of rugger on muddy prep-school playing fields.

Sir Michael is said to have been an inspirational teacher at Town Close School in Norwich, forever taking his young charges on character-building expeditions.

However, difficulties arose with the headmaster, described by one who knew him as "a rather brutal Captain Mainwaring type", who said that the trips were costing the school too much in petrol.

"One day Walker got fed up with this and went to his local recruitment office and joined up," says one close to his Royal Anglian Regiment. The rest, as they say, is military history.

Testing time

THE ENGLAND cricket team had to draw stumps on Christmas jollies yesterday. With the fourth Test starting in Port Elizabeth today, they had to put in some hard practice in the nets after the deluge had washed out their warm-up match against a student XI. The traditional fancy dress party was scrapped.



Bunnyboy Botham

Last year, as the series against Australia descended into pantomime, Michael Atherton dressed up as Robin Hood, Graham Gooch was a snarling Captain Hook and Phil Tufnell came as The Riddler, with his wife Lisa as Catwoman. Ian Botham once bowed into the party as a bunny, but a later appearance as Guy the Gorilla gave him the nickname which stuck.

P.H.S

MEMBER 1995
has Budget



FISH AND FOLLY

Empty nets, empty policies and empty 'European' seas

The turkey was carved joyfully across Britain yesterday, and eaten with gusto. Today is a good day to talk, less festively, about fish. The various ministers for fisheries of the European Union agreed on Friday to a carve-up of the union's fish resources: a "total allowable catch" was determined for 1996, as well as next year's quotas for particular types of fish for individual countries. In the European manner of doing business, this emotive matter was concluded merely nine days before the year ends. If the directors of a private enterprise were to take their decisions in this way — on the sharp edge of the chronological precipice, as it were — the shareholders would rightly bay for blood. The EU, however, is not a private enterprise: and its citizens, as much in the question of fisheries as in many other matters, appear increasingly to be no more than bewildered bystanders.

Enrica Bonino, the EU Fisheries Commissioner, had hoped to slash the total allowable catch by 50 per cent: drastic though that may seem, her scientists had concluded that nothing less would do if Europe's depleted stocks were ever to recover their strength. Yet in the souk-like atmosphere at Friday's meeting, member states haggled, cajoled, bullied and clawed thousands of tonnes of fish that their fleets had looked set to lose. Ministers seemed to have one aim only: to avoid, or to reduce the intensity of, cuts in quotas recommended by Signora Bonino. The needs of conservation were caught in the net of short-term "national interest" — of France, of Spain, of The Netherlands. And yes, of Britain too.

Signora Bonino said after the conclusion of business that she would have preferred more courageous action to protect fish stocks. *The Times*, too, would have preferred that. Instead, the EU must once again prepare to live with an irresponsible fudge. At the time of the fisheries crisis between Canada and Spain — fought out in March and April of this year — we argued that the EU's common fisheries policy (CFP) was decadent and wasteful, and that it cried out

for radical, top-to-bottom overhaul. That view remains not merely unchanged after Friday's meeting, but greatly strengthened.

The CFP is responsible for an annual subsidy of \$580 million to Europe's bloated fishing fleets: this subsidy, to which the British taxpayer contributes, serves neither the interests of this country nor the wider global interest in conservation. By this policy, the EU seeks irrationally to reconcile the protection of fish stocks with support for the short-term economic interests of its fishermen. Why cannot these subsidies — which now serve only to deplete dwindling stocks still further — be channelled into the redevelopment of fishing communities? Is it not folly to pay to keep boats afloat when the EU needs, at a conservative estimate, to reduce its fleet to a quarter of its current size? The better way would surely have been to permit larger cuts in quotas, and for redirected subsidies to have softened the blow dealt to fishermen put out of work.

No less pressing is the question of "discards" at sea: fish are thrown back at present if they are undersized, which only distorts the figures on the depletion of stocks. The admirable Norwegian practice, enforced by Oslo in the Barents Sea, must be emulated at once by the EU: discarding of undersized fish must be banned. This would reduce the use of illegal nets and — as important — would yield more accurate calculations of existing fish stocks. Quotas would then have to be accounted in terms of fish caught, not in terms of fish "landed", as is currently the case.

There have been calls — from some on the Tory Right and from MPs who represent fishing constituencies — for Britain to pull out of the CFP. Attractive though life without the CFP might be, the option is not readily available so long as the country remains a member of the EU. The answer to our present problems lies more immediately in a reform of the policies which determine our fishing arrangements. That reform must be profound and immediate. We do want future generations to eat fish, do we not?

BULLISH BLAIR

If Tony Blair is sometimes criticised for being too inflexible, if his enemies describe him as acting like a bull in a china shop, blame the stars. On Saturday, in the first of 12 festive leaders on the signs of the zodiac, we considered the likely fate of the Prime Minister — an Aries — over the next year. But what of the man who wants to succeed him? Born on May 5, Mr Blair is a Taurus: determined, stubborn, slow to anger but fierce once roused. If his political enemies — on both sides of the House — want clues to the Labour leader's personality, they could do worse than examine the position of the planets at his birth.

A Taurus will not always have new ideas of his own. But he will recognise good ideas in others and then stop at nothing to put them into practice. He is unlikely to change his mind — so Labour's left wing will simply have to learn to live with him. Taurus works hard and thrives in positions of responsibility. A warning for the Conservatives: they do not like taking unnecessary risks.

According to the astrologists, 1995 was a year of great psychological progress for Taurus, "a year for breaking addictions, getting at the root of psychological problems and otherwise eliminating the unnecessary from your life and character". Yes, Clause Four simply had to go. But what of 1996?

Next year promises more money, recognition, self-esteem and lucky breaks. Jupiter's move into Capricorn is no less than a cosmic holiday for Taurus. And Uranus's move into Aquarius, which has tremendous implications for the world as a whole, has special meaning for Mr Blair. This movement brings "accelerated change, modernism and avant-gardism to the world". Read what you like into the stars, but this sounds uncannily like a Labour general election victory: particularly when it is followed by the prediction that Taurus will move house, not from their own personal desires,

but as a result of sudden career changes. Mr Blair, like other Taurus, will be weeding out false friends from true, a trend that has apparently been keeping him busy for some years. Those former Conservatives who want to jump ship in time for a cosy quango chairmanship under Labour may find that their ruse has been spotted.

Others who continue to harbour strong doubts about Labour's fiscal responsibility have good astrological reasons for doing so. In 1996, Taurus have greater access to other people's money. But if they overdo it they run the risk of rampant debt. Time for the IMF again?

Next month promises little respite from the Government's woes. For Mr Blair, major changes are due in his career. Barriers to progress fall suddenly. Career fantasies are being fulfilled this month and for years to come. February and March continue in the same vein — but the Tories might be able to exploit the emergence of the Labour leader's secret enemies in April.

Mr Blair is advised to wind down from work in June, July and August. But then so does everyone else. It is the autumn that looks most dangerous for John Major. Towards the end of September, Taurus such as Mr Blair will see the fragility of governments and bureaucracies — solid though they have always seemed to be. And October, when some have forecast an election, will be the most tumultuous month.

Then, Taurus become more socially-conscious, more other-orientated and more dependent on the goodwill of others. Voters, perhaps? It sounds like it: "Goals are being achieved through other people now, so treat them right." Not only is Mr Blair predicted to move house in October, but a powerful solar eclipse on the 12th signals a change of job or career. It should, write astrologers with some understatement, "be seen as a positive step forward".

SISTER ETHEL

The volunteers of the world spread the Christmas message best

Her modesty, her selflessness and her Christian spirit were revealed to the nation yesterday. Her tirelessness, her way with children and her humility also earned our admiration. Sister Ethel Normoyle was relatively unknown in Britain until the Queen chose to highlight her work and her achievements in the royal message to the nation on Christmas Day. But the community in which this Irish nun — of the Little Company of Mary — works and lives, pays her daily a debt of gratitude and love.

Sister Ethel has dedicated her life to the people of a black township near Port Elizabeth, the city where England's Test match against South Africa begins today. Viewers of the cricket, however, will see nothing of Sister Ethel's part of town: impoverished, overcrowded and unhealthy. Yet the Queen, on her visit to South Africa in March, travelled to the poor township — to see for herself the work of this compassionate nun.

In her broadcast yesterday, the Queen was moving in her praise for Sister Ethel and spoke of the "glowing example of how the inspiration and energy of one person can

benefit thousands of others". The traditional Christmas message, said the Queen, was spread most eloquently by "the volunteers and the Sister Ethels of this world".

The Queen chose wisely her moment to acknowledge the sacrifice of those who work and care for others — in Britain as much as in countries overseas — with no thought of reward or their own welfare. Let it be said on this day that Christmas that among the truest Christians are those who labour quietly, beyond the public gaze. They measure their success not in terms of recognition and applause — however well deserved — but in the currency of the happiness and relief they bring to the lives of the poor.

Such people work for peace; they work for literacy; they work for the health of the communities in whose midst they live. They work also for the spiritual welfare of their societies, both natural and adoptive. Sister Ethel's quiet nobility is an example to us all. We wish her strength and success, and fulfilment of the desire she expressed yesterday to be "part of the lives of people in the township for as long as I can be".

Divorce as cause of homelessness

From the National Director, Christian Voice

Sir, In the debate on the growing incidence of homelessness, especially amongst the young, the Opposition, the Government, Centrepoint and the Princess of Wales (see letters, December 9, 14) all appear to me to be addressing the symptoms. Is this issue simply one of financial provision, with no further moral dimension?

Between 1961 and 1993, the population of Great Britain grew by 10 per cent. In the same period, the number of households grew by 41 per cent, and households of only one person from 2,268,000 to 6,183,000. The *Social Trends* publication shows that those living in temporary accommodation went up from 11,000 households in 1983 to 58,400 in 1993.

This increase in homelessness appears to be almost totally due to the breakdown of the family, as shown by the number of children on the streets who report leaving home after the introduction of a new adult male — usually mother's "boyfriend".

The Government and Opposition may squabble about benefits and "cheap affordable housing" as much as they like. Yet both, as in another world, appear bent on legislation which will introduce divorce on demand and break up yet more families.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN GREEN,
National Director,
Christian Voice,
PO Box 526, Sutton, Surrey,
December 22.

Fishing agreement

From Sir Anthony Meyer

Sir, The agreement reached by the European Fisheries Ministers (report, December 23) will no doubt be welcomed. It amounts, of course, to a refusal by governments to face their national fishing industries with the unpopular decisions required to conserve fish stocks for future generations.

Could there be a clearer illustration of the need for a body such as the European Commission to champion the general and the long-term interest, and of the folly of attempting to run the European Union on the sole basis of inter-governmental co-operation?

I am, etc.,
ANTHONY MEYER
(Policy Director,
European Movement),
9 Cottage Place, SW3,
December 22.

From Professor John Shepherd

Sir, It is the depleted state of our fish stocks which has been at the root of Britain's dispute with her European partners over total allowable catches and fish quotas.

If the best scientific evidence shows that the stocks are over-exploited, recommendations for cuts in fishing effort and catches should come as no surprise: the only way to conserve fish is to kill fewer of them — and that means smaller catches — until the stocks have recovered.

If too many fishing boats are chasing too few fish, then a decommissioning programme is inescapable, but that will take a long time to work. A more immediate way to square the fishermen's short-term interests (higher allowable catches next year) with their long-term interests (more fish in the sea in the future) is desperately needed.

The proposed cuts were based firmly on internationally agreed scientific assessments, and in most cases reflected only two processes: tracking the natural (and man-made) variations in the size of the stocks, and reducing the proportion of stocks taken by 10 or 20 per cent from their present excessive levels (about 70 per cent in some cases).

These processes can and do interact to give rather sharp reductions for some stocks, in some years; but if the stock has declined, trying to catch the same tonnage as last year can only drive exploitation rates up, and the stocks down even further.

Those concerned for the future of our fisheries must therefore regret the high quota levels set at Brussels today. These will be bad for the fish — and, in the long run, bad for the fishermen, too.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SHEPHERD, Director,
Southampton Oceanography Centre,
Empress Dock,
Southampton, Hampshire,
December 22.

Stars crossed

From Mr Steven Carr

Sir, Ms von Strunckel (interview, December 22) accuses an astronomer of making ill-judged comments about astrology and then, cheekily, uses Pluto in her forecasts. It was astrologers, not astrologers, who discovered Pluto. For thousands of years astrologers never realised their forecasts were coming out wrong because they were not taking Pluto into account.

Yours sincerely,
STEVEN CARR,
3 Bowness Avenue, Prenton,
Birkenhead, Merseyside.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Lottery contract under scrutiny

From Viscount Astor

Sir, It is clear from Mr Richard Branson's letter (December 21) why he failed to win the contract to operate the National Lottery.

He states that not only would he have given all the profit to charity, but also that this would have encouraged people to buy more tickets. This suggests to me that he failed to study carefully the National Lottery Act (1993), and also the assurances given by the Government in both Houses during its passage.

Because as a result of concerns expressed on all sides in both Houses on the effect of the proposed lottery on charitable giving the Government agreed that the lottery should not be allowed to market itself as a way of making a charitable donation.

The reason to buy a lottery ticket is to win a prize, and perhaps even the jackpot. It is an advantage that in this country the five distributing bodies each collect a percentage that in most EU countries would go straight to the Treasury.

The Branson formula would have muddled the clear divide between buying a lottery ticket and giving to charity and, in my view, could have done enormous harm to charitable giving by the people of this country.

Yours etc.,
ASTOR
(Department of National Heritage,
1991-92 and 1994-95),
House of Lords,
December 21.

From Mr Bryan Firth

Sir, Your letters today concerning Oflo leave many questions unanswered. It would be appropriate if the inquiry to be headed by Anne Rafferty, QC,

Paintings restored

From Mr Julian Prichard

Sir, Two of your correspondents have drawn attention to specific losses in pictures cleaned for the Vermeer exhibition in Washington (letters, December 6, 18). My lament is more general. I have not seen the exhibition, but the plates in the catalogue are quite enough to make one deplore the whole enterprise.

In painting after painting the magic of Vermeer's modelling by light is replaced with weak, smeary fudges without sparkle or volume. Why were any of these paintings interfered with? Make Vermeer's surfaces look painted, and his transcendence of painting, the illusion of reality, is gone.

Too many paintings, it seems to me, are allowed to be cleaned institutionally without question (often for exhibition) by people who consider their work in technical terms only: who quite obviously do not understand what needs to be "conserved"; and who almost never leave things alone. Masaccio, Michelangelo, Titian, Veronese, Vermeer, Turner... what will become of Ernst Gombrich's "story of art" if we go on ruining the masterpieces of our greatest geniuses? A moratorium on cleaning is now an urgent necessity.

Yours sincerely,
J. P. PRITCHARD,
42 Bradmore Park Road, W6.

Derwent water

From Dr Robin Pellew and Mr Stephen Warburton

Sir, You reported (December 18) that in its continuing quest for more supplies Yorkshire Water is seeking further drought orders for increased abstraction from Yorkshire rivers.

It intends to advertise its application for the orders with a public consultation of just ten days, overlapping with the holiday period.

Two of the company's targets are the River Derwent, a site of special scientific interest for most of its length, and the internationally important lower Derwent Valley, one of England's last great wetlands.

The latter's rare wildflower meadows and rich birdlife depend on very specific conditions, leaving them highly vulnerable to any changes in the

Tories in Epping

From Mrs Di Collins

Sir, Your report of December 19 implies strongly that Eleanor Laing has been selected as prospective Tory candidate for Epping Forest on the grounds that she is a woman. This is not the case.

Epping Forest has prided itself on having been through a very democratic selection process. We certainly were not "briefed from Central Office" or "sold the merits" of a woman candidate. We are perfectly capable of choosing our own candidate.

This we did, with the full involvement of members, and the final selection on December 15, before an audience of some 200 members, was a credit to the party. The candidates were thoroughly grilled with sensible political questions and Mrs Laing was selected on the first ballot, entirely on merit.

Yours faithfully,
DI COLLINS
(Chairman),
Epping Forest Conservative Association,
Thatcher House,
4 Meadow Road, Loughton, Essex,
December 19.

(report, December 21), considered the following points in public, in addition to Mr Branson's allegations of attempted bribery.

Why did Peter Davis, an experienced manager, lay himself open to being compromised by accepting favours from GTEch, something even junior managers would regard as potentially hazardous?

Why did Mr Davis apparently ignore the likely extra benefits of Richard Branson's "profits for charity" bid? It would seem, in view of Branson's abilities and achievements, he would have been an ideal choice.

As Sir Robert Calderwood asks in his letter, why did Mr Davis not publicly declare or disqualify himself from awarding the contract to Camelot because of his relationship with individuals within GTEch?

Airing the wider implications of Oflo's actions in public should go a long way to easing growing public anxiety.

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN FIRTH,
Firth & Associates Ltd,
67 High Street,
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire,
December 21.

From Mr M. J. W. Anstey

Sir, It takes just a few free flights to raise a clamour by politicians for an inquiry into the office of Oflo. What does it take for the Government to secure an inquiry into the fiasco at Lloyd's?

Yours faithfully,
M. J. W. ANSTEY (Chairman),
Lloyd's Names Information Network,
The Annex,
Grosvenor Hall, Bolnole Road,
Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Paintings in hiding

From Mr Michael Moynihan

Sir, In writing of the Welsh slate mine where the National Gallery's paintings were preserved during the Second World War, Isabel Carlisle suggests that it would be fascinating to know which of these paintings were among Hitler's choices for the Führer museum that he planned for Linz ("How the gallery went to war", Arts, December 15).

In October 1944, in a group of other war correspondents, I visited the Dutch opposite number, deep in a limestone hillside outside Maastricht, where the wonder was that not one from a priceless collection of 800 Old Masters and a few "moderns" had gone missing.

In my diary for the day in question I recorded that the pictures had first been buried in sand dunes, removed here in 1942 for protection from Allied bombing. They were brought by special train and the Germans could not be kept in ignorance of the hide-out. In fact a number of officers had been to see them — there had been no attempt at looting.

Was Hitler waiting for victory to take his pick? Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL MOYNIHAN,
Nuthatch,
Fletcher Close, North Mundham,
Chichester, West Sussex,
December 16.

water regime. To threaten a site of such international conservation significance to meet short-term needs compounds a failure in forward planning with a clear disregard for wildlife.

Such an insensitive application will also place the Secretary of State for the Environment in the invidious position of having to determine it against the backdrop of shouldering his obligation to the international community to protect the lower Derwent Valley from the risks of damage and deterioration.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN PELLEW
(Director, WWF-UK),
STEPHEN WARBURTON
(Conservation Manager,
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust),
World Wide Fund for Nature UK,
Panda House, Weyside Park,
Caneshall Lane, Godalming, Surrey.

Causes of 'staggers'

From Mr Graham C. Lewis

Sir, Another cause of "staggers" in grazing animals, in addition to that described by Miss Wright (letter, December 15), is alkaloid toxicosis resulting from the consumption of grass infected with endophytic fungi.

Infected plants are common and widespread in old pastures, and probably were more abundant before the Second World War, during which many old pastures were ploughed in order to grow food crops. The alkaloid affects the animal's neuromuscular system, causing loss of co-ordination of the limbs and hence the staggering.

Affected animals usually recover quickly once removed from infected pasture. Alkaloid levels in endophyte-infected plants are increased during periods of hot, dry weather, and one of the lesser known results of this summer's heatwave was a marked increase in the number of cases of staggers across the country.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM LEWIS,
Institute of Grassland and
Environmental Research,
North Wyke Research Station,
Okehampton, Devon.

Fortifying the sound of music

From Mr Richard Fisher

Sir, The introduction by ENO of amplification for its production of *La Belle Vierge* at the London Coliseum is a sad admission of failure for a company whose performances of operetta used to be legendary (letter, December 21).

After a performance of *Iolanthe* in Hamburg in the 1960s, Leopold Ludwig, the music director there, expressed his admiration for a level of performance in operetta then unusual in Germany, while the audiences' response in even the largest theatres in Munich and Berlin showed that they could hear, and understand, everything without the least difficulty.

When it moved to the Coliseum the company continued the tradition with many performances of *The Merry Widow*, *Die Fledermaus*, *Pagliaro*, *Iolanthe*, *La Belle Hélène* and, above all, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, which was revived time after time by public demand. All these were performed with enormous success without a trace of amplification.

There must be something wrong if an audience cannot understand what is going on without it.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FISHER
(Director of Opera Planning,
Sadler's Wells, 1969-73),
1 Middle Lane, N8,
December 21.

Dinner duties

From Mr Brian North Lee

Sir, Only people prepared to put something in socially should accept supper invitations (Mary Killen, "The death of the dinner party", December 18).

Marked lateness is no virtue, meeting new people can be a blessing, and how far you are prepared to travel depends on your regard for your hostess or host. The excusing of bores is their responsibility, the toleration of them may be yours as their friends. Being too lazy to cook yourself is no excuse for accepting others' hospitality.

Guests who want only to meet the same folk, whose opinions and stories are bound to pall in the long run, are unworthy of the hospitality they are offered.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN NORTH LEE,
32 Barrowgate Road, W4,
December 18.

From Mrs Celia Jenkins

Sir, Poor Mary Killen! Bread may be all that is on her post-prosperity 1990s dinner-party menu in London, but I can assure her that cake is still on offer in the provinces. We thirty-somethings in the sticks generally find a warm welcome, good food and meeting new people preferable to TV's current fare.

Yours faithfully,
CELIA JENKINS,
The Dongray,
Bangor on Dee, Wrexham, Clwyd,
December 20.

From Mr Paul Disley-Tindell

Sir, Was Mary Killen in a dentist's surgery when she was "flicking through a 1949 issue of *American Vogue*"? I think we should be told.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL DISLEY-TINDELL,
51 Ramsden Road, SW12,
December 18.

Safety on the road

From Mr Michael Baumber

Sir, During 30 years' service, both as a police advanced driver and involved in planning and operation of traffic policing policy, I remember most the observation: "Speed does not cause accidents; people cause accidents."

Chief Inspector McElroy ("Thirty years since Britain slammed on the brakes", December 22) rightly says: "Speed must be appropriate to conditions." That is why the police have been calling for a more comprehensive driving test for so many years.

How can people be expected to cope with road, traffic and weather conditions if they are not able to drive properly? Would we allow an airline pilot to take us across the world if he or she had only taxied the aircraft around the perimeter at Heathrow? Incidentally, the graphic with your report is not quite correct: the speed limit on motorways and dual carriageways is 70 mph. Single carriageway roads, unless otherwise restricted, have a 60 mph limit.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BAUMBER,
Warwick Cottage,
Ufford, Stamford, Lincolnshire.

Brain train

From Mr M. J. Ansell

Sir, Mr Denis Norden's television programme, *It'll be Alright on the Night*, has been proved to dull the mind (report, December 19).

It may be time to introduce a system of star ratings for television programmes to indicate their degree of mind-numbingness.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. ANSELL,
3 Ashley Close,
Welslyn Garden City, Hertfordshire,
December 19.

OBITUARIES

DAME NITA BARROW

Dame Nita Barrow, GCMG, Governor-General of Barbados, died on December 19 aged 79. She was born on November 15, 1916.

THE smaller eastern Caribbean islands might be thought to have some difficulty in finding a Governor-General — the ultimate constitutional arbiter — untouched by past political allegiance or by the close connections of such a small society. But this is to overlook the fact that emigration, albeit sometimes only for a period, is a fact of life in the islands, even for the professional elites. Such was the case with Dame Nita Barrow, Governor-General of Barbados from 1990. She achieved great things in the pan-Caribbean and world spheres in which she chose to operate before she turned finally to the service of Barbados, in the last decade of her life, when she was already 70.

Ruth Nita Barrow was the daughter of a Barbadian Methodist bishop. Her mother's family owned a small sugar plantation and farm in the northern parish of St Lucy. Her other relations included a cousin, Sir Hugh Springer, whom she succeeded as Governor-General, and Charles Duncan O'Neale, a doctor and pioneer of democratic politics in the 1920s. The family were renowned for their ability in their professions and their sense of public service. Errol Barrow, who died in 1987, was a younger brother. Twice Prime Minister, he brought Barbados to independence in 1966.

Nita Barrow took an entirely different route to a public career, eschewing party politics entirely. Thus it was that her appointment as Governor-General in June 1990 was enthusiastically supported on all sides in the House of Assembly.

Care for others was her main concern — she never married or had a family of her own. She was educated at St Michael's Girls' School, and in 1935 she chose nursing as her profession, doing her basic training and obtaining her SRN in Barbados. In 1941 she took the first step in what was to become a pattern in her life, when she left Barbados and went to Trinidad to train to become a registered midwife. Her travels led to an immense web of personal contacts which she assiduously cultivated, in the Caribbean, Canada, Britain and the United States.



Periods of education in Toronto, Edinburgh and at Columbia University in the United States (where she obtained a BSc in nursing in 1935), were to follow. Much of this higher education was obtained during leave periods from her nursing duties in Jamaica, where she had become a nursing instructor in 1945.

There, her responsibilities mounted: she became matron at the University College of the West Indies Hospital, and, by the mid-1950s, she was Jamaica's Principal Nursing Officer, responsible for all nursing services

across the island. Her appetite for education and her industry — qualities which Barbadians pride themselves as being characteristic of the island — seemed limitless.

Her work took on an increasingly international flavour. She became nursing adviser for the Caribbean to the World Health Organisation in the 1960s. An active Christian, she served from 1971 in Geneva at the World Council of Churches, first as associate director of the Christian Medical Commission, then, from 1975 to 1980, as director.

This world perspective was reflected in her voluntary work. She served the YWCA internationally from 1965, and from 1975 to 1983 she was president of the World YWCA. For part of that time she was also president of the International Council for Adult Education.

She became passionately committed to majority rule in South Africa. In 1986 she was a member of the Commonwealth "eminent persons group" to South Africa, where her great network of contacts through education, medicine, the churches and the YWCA were invaluable. In the same year, she was appointed the Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United Nations.

In 1980 the Queen, as Sovereign of the Order of St Andrew, Barbados's order of chivalry, created her Dame. She was created GCMG in 1990.

As Governor-General over the last five years she was hospitable, outgoing and unstinting of herself, attending almost any function. She lived very simply in a small section of Government House, attended by her younger sister who acted as a sort of honorary ADC.

She behaved with impeccable constitutional decorum, and this was especially appreciated by politicians of all parties in the summer of 1994. The then Prime Minister, Erskine Sandford, lost to an opposition vote of no confidence through abstentions and defections from his own party in the House, and a general election followed. Throughout this difficult period, Nita Barrow showed the sort of stability and good sense which reminded Barbadians of the island's 355 years of parliamentary government.

Her death befitted her life of service. The day before she died, she attended the annual dinner of gazetted officers of the Royal Barbados Police Force together with the Prime Minister, Chief Justice and Attorney-General. At the reception, she remarked to ministers that she had been feeling tired, and eventually sat down. Being the last to go in, she found that she could not rise from her chair and had lost the use of her right side. She remained completely collected and in command, talking to those around her encouragingly, and asked that her doctor be called. Insisting that the dinner should continue as planned she was taken to hospital, dying the next day.

ALFRED WOOD

Alfred Wood, CBE, architect and town planner, died from a stroke on December 8 aged 69. He was born on September 8, 1926.



diploma with distinction in 1960.

During this period, which included a brief time as chief housing architect for Glasgow and two years in private practice, he gained a wide experience of building. This, together with his historical knowledge, was to become an important qualification for the job of city planning officer for Norwich, to which he was appointed in 1965.

In this post he found ample opportunity to prove that a good town planner had to be a good architect, or at least one who could distinguish between good and bad design in the work of others. Above all, here he found himself entrusted with the rewarding task of taking care of a fine old city. The terrible destruction that had overtaken Worcester's city centre around its cathedral was not going to happen in Norwich.

There was much to be done, but Wood had a clear picture of how to set about his work. He was a practical man: first things had to be put first — a town had, above all, to be functional; work, social, topo-

graphical and traffic matters had to be studied and dealt with in such a way that the final product, he would say, should be operative, yet also a place where design was predominant and surroundings an enjoyable blend of colour and form. To achieve this in Norwich, Wood pioneered the pedestrianised centre to free shopping streets of ugly, noisy, fume-laden traffic jams.

This decision created a basically peaceful framework within which detail could be concentrated on. A town planner of Wood's calibre was vital to the outcome: bad detail, whether in terms of a crude shopfront or of some brash piece of commercial infill, causes irreversible damage.

Here again, as Wood saw it, was the necessity for the chief planner to be an architect (and not a geographer or sociologist) who had the ability to accept or reject planning applications according to their quality. Wood cleared the High Street of neglect and tastelessness, bringing colour to the scene (the loved colour), and inspiring the shopkeepers with such enthusiasm that they too became involved with repairing their area. Wood received a Civic Trust Award for his achievements.

After he left Norwich in 1972 he was offered many appointments. He went to Hereford and Worcester for two years, then on to the West Midlands until 1984 as chief planner. He was already a member of the Historic Buildings Council and in 1985 headed the Historic Areas at English Heritage. He was visiting professor at Harvard and at Belgium's Leuven University, and acted as adviser to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

Wood was appointed CBE in 1988, the year after his retirement caused by ill-health.

His wife predeceased him and he is survived by his son.

BUTTERFLY McQUEEN



Butterfly McQueen and Vivien Leigh in *Gone With the Wind*, 1939

Butterfly McQueen, actress, died on December 22 aged 84. She was born on January 8, 1911.

WHEN Butterfly McQueen was offered the chance to play Scarlett O'Hara's leather-brained maid Prissy in *Gone With the Wind* she realised it might be the making of her Hollywood career. But she also faced a personal dilemma over the choice. The part was not a particularly dignified one, and for a black actress it represented the worst of the old stereotypes: a dim-witted, perpetually weeping slave who gets slapped by the much feistier heroine.

In the event, McQueen played the role delightfully, and she was given some memorably funny lines. The best was when the long-suffering Melanie (Olivia de Havilland) is about to give birth, and Prissy admits to her mistress that she has lied about her qualifications as a midwife: "Miss Scarlett, I don't know nothin' 'bout birthin' babies!" She delivered this — and the rest of her lines — in a screeching high-pitched voice which was once described as sounding like "a clarinet with a cold".

Butterfly McQueen was born Thelma Lincoln McQueen, the daughter of a stevedore, in Tampa, Florida, but the family moved to Georgia when she was still a child. She discovered a taste for performing at school, where she would recite passages from the Bible. After the

divorce of her parents she moved to Harlem with her mother, a housekeeper, and determined to become a nurse. On the advice of a teacher, however, she turned to the stage instead.

She made her Broadway debut in *Brother Rat* (1936), and George Abbott cast her in several shows — *Brown Sugar* and *What a Life*. She earned the nickname Butterfly after dancing as a butterfly in a production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The part of Prissy was not won without a struggle. She was initially told by a talent scout that she was too chubby. She was also unhappy about being typecast as a maid, having already played a string of wide-eyed domestics. The producer of *Gone With the Wind*, David O. Selznick, was sympathetic to her obvious unhappiness during the film's shooting: "He knew it was a stupid part and I was an intelligent person."

The making of *Gone With the Wind* had been exhaustively hyped, and for the film's premiere in 1939, a million film lovers poured into Atlanta, hoping to catch a glimpse of Vivien Leigh or Clark Gable. A select audience of 2,500 attended the first night on December 15, but Butterfly McQueen was not one of them, as the theatre was a whites-only establishment.

Hollywood, however, was more welcoming and McQueen was steadily employed in films throughout the 1940s: *Cabin in the Sky* (1943), *Mildred Pierce* (1945) and

Duel in the Sun (1946). In the early 1950s she appeared in the television comedy *Beulah*, which was ahead of its time in having a black star. But again she found herself cast as a maid.

There followed a two-decade absence from the screen, during which she lived in New York and concentrated on other interests. She did voluntary work in Harlem, and at the age of 64 graduated in political science from the City College. In the early 1970s she began to accept character roles in films once more, including *Amazing Grace* (1974) and

The Mosquito Coast (1986). She was white-haired now, and much larger, but with the same distinctive high-pitched voice.

Her reputation, however, continued to rest on that one small role in *Gone With the Wind*, and gradually she became reconciled to the fact. She made numerous personal appearances in connection with the film. She died after suffering burns in an accident at her home in Augusta, Georgia.

She never married, but she is survived by an adopted daughter.

CANON H. E. W. TURNER

Canon H. E. W. Turner, Van Mildert Professor of Divinity, University of Durham, 1958-73, died on December 14 aged 88. He was born on January 14, 1907.

HOLDING the chair at Durham once occupied by Michael Ramsey, Hugh Turner, as he was generally known, could claim to be the heir to a distinguished intellectual tradition. In one sense, though, he was the anomaly within it: unlike many of his predecessors (including Ramsey who was appointed at the early age of 35), he was an example of insider preferment.

He held the Lightfoot professorship before he was appointed to the Van Mildert one, and had already been serving as a residentiary canon of Durham for eight years before attaining the senior divinity chair. In the circumstances, it was not surprising that, when he was appointed at the age of 51, it should have represented the culmination, rather than the launchpad, of his career.

Henry Ernest William Turner was born in Sheffield. He was educated at King Edward VII School, Sheffield, from which in 1925 he won an open scholarship to St John's College, Oxford, to read Mods and Greats. He attained a double first and went on to take another first in Theology.

Turner served his title in the Carlisle diocese in the Low Church parish of Christ Church, Cockermouth, where he met his wife. He was ordained priest in 1932 and in 1934 moved, again as a curate, to Holy Trinity, Wavertree, Liverpool. It became clear to him, and to others, that his real interest lay in academic life. He was appointed as chaplain and Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1935. At the outbreak of war he

enrolled as a chaplain in the RAF, being stationed briefly at Silloth, Cumberland, before being posted to Cairo, where he travelled widely in Egypt and North Africa. His key role was running courses for RAF ordination candidates, as well as the more routine duties of a padre.

He returned to Oxford at the end of the war to a college of a very different nature — with ex-service personnel returning to studies interrupted or delayed by the war. The achievement of which he was most proud was the creation and cataloguing of the Lincoln College library.

In 1950 Turner was invited to apply for the Lightfoot canon professorship at Durham — a second theological chair created by Ramsey in his decade there before being appointed Regius Professor at Cambridge.

The remaining 23 years of Turner's active academic life were to be spent at Durham — where, as Van Mildert Professor, he eventually became head of the theological department. It grew in academic standing and size under his leadership, and it was largely because of his initiative that theology students at Codrington College, Barbados, and Fourah Bay College, Freetown, Sierra Leone, were able to come to Durham to complete their studies for a Durham degree.

Although he had started out very much as an Evangelical, he was excited by the discussions he led between the university and Ushaw College, a Roman Catholic Senior Seminary close to Durham City. This typified his growing interest in ecumenical developments.

He was a sound rather than an original scholar, and his published works were mainly in the field of systematic theology. His best-known

book — and the one that secured him his doctorate of divinity — is probably *The Pattern of Christian Truth* (1953), based on his Bampton Lectures of 1954. He also combined with Bishop Hugh Montefiore to produce *Thomas as the Evangelist* (1962). He became Treasurer of the Chapter, helping to put the cathedral's finances on a secure footing, and was proud of the fact that his last months at Durham should have been spent as acting Dean during a decanal interregnum.

He was an energetic governor of Durham School and of St John's College, Durham, where he continued as a member of council long after he retired to Eskdale in Cumbria.

He is survived by his wife Constance and their two sons.



THE TIMES

Atlases of the World

Now! No handling charges and FREE postage to all our UK customers Offer applies United Kingdom only

The Times Atlas of the World

9th Comprehensive (De Luxe) Edn £85
7th Concise Edition £40 (from Jan 1st £45)
3rd Family Edition £17.99
Reference Edition £12.99
Compact Edition £8.99
Mini (Pocket) Edition £5.99

Thematic Atlases & Histories

The Times Atlas of World History £40
Concise Edition (Paperback) £14.99
Compact Edition £9.99
The Times Atlas of Archaeology £35
The Times Atlas of the Second World War
50th Anniversary Edition £27.50
The Times Atlas of European History £25
The Times London History Atlas £22.99
The Times Illustrated World History £25
The Times Illustrated History of Europe £25

Also available

The Times 1000 1996 - Top Business Guide - £35
The Times Guide to the European Parliament £25
to the Peoples of Europe £15.99
to the Single European Market £8.99
to the New British State £16.99
to the Middle East £8.99
The Times Good University Guide 1995/6 £8.99
The Times Night Sky 1996 (Guide Booklet) £3.50

Please send cheques or postal orders (no credit cards payable to Akom Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW Enquiries: 0181 852 4575 (24 hours) Delivery up to 8 days (UK)

ON THIS DAY

December 26, 1910

The 1911 edition of *Who's Who* was taken to task for still making "no mention whatever of Mrs. Pankhurst and her daughter, Miss Christabel Pankhurst".

old and has been growing steadily during all these years, it is a much less unwieldy volume than might have been expected. Many new names, presumably, are included every year, but the number of biographies withdrawn in consequence of the death of the subjects of them is also considerable.

Among those whose names appear in the obituary of the present volume are Björnsterne Björnson, Lionel Brough, Tom Brown, W. P. Frith, Sir R. Giffen, W. Holman Hunt, the Bishop of Lincoln, Sir W. Q. Orchardson, Linley Sambourne, Colwyn Smith, and Mark Twain. It was unfortunate

that it should have been necessary to prepare the volume before the Dissolution of Parliament. The consequence is that members who have retired from Parliament or have been defeated at the polls are still described as "M.P.s." Perhaps, however, this was difficult to avoid in the circumstances. There are some minor points in the arrangement of the work which are rather puzzling. Why should Lord Hardinge of Penshurst appear among the "P.s." while Lord James of Hereford and Lord Curzon of Kedleston are to be found under "J" and "C" respectively? It is curious, also, that there should be still no mention whatever of Mrs. Pankhurst and her daughter, Miss Christabel Pankhurst. But when all is said, "Who's Who" is a wonderful production, and it is now almost indispensable.

"WHITAKER'S ALMANACK," 1911. It was necessary to go to press with the new edition of "Whitaker's Almanack" before the General Election took place, and the list of the House of Commons which is printed is that of the late Parliament. It is promised, however, that a supplement will be provided, containing the new list, and this will be supplied to subscribers on application. The chief events of the reign of King Edward are presented in a chronological summary, and several useful new features are introduced.

